THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

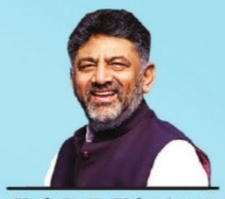
BENGALURU • MONDAY • MAY 25, 2026 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

24 DIE IN TRAIN BLAST IN BALOCHISTAN

A suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle near a railway track as a passenger train passed through the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta in Balochistan province on Sunday, killing at least 24 people and wounding over 70 others, officials said. The force of the blast caused two of the train cars to overturn and catch fire, sending thick black smoke into the air, according to footage shared online | **P11**

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
of Karnataka

Department of Health and Family Welfare



Shri. D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister
of Karnataka

Inauguration

Nation's 1st GOVERNMENT OWNED STATE-OF-THE ART

Integrated Command & Control Centre

108 AROGYA KAVACHA & 104 AROGYA SAHAYA VANI

ONE CALL IN NEED, RESPONSE AT SPEED.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INITIATIVE

GOVERNMENT-OWNED INTEGRATED EMERGENCY HEALTH NETWORK

The Government of Karnataka introduces a state-of-the-art centralized Command & Control Centre for seamless operation of emergency ambulance services including 108 Arogya Kavacha, Nagu Magu & other ambulances.

DIGITAL HOSPITAL MAPPING

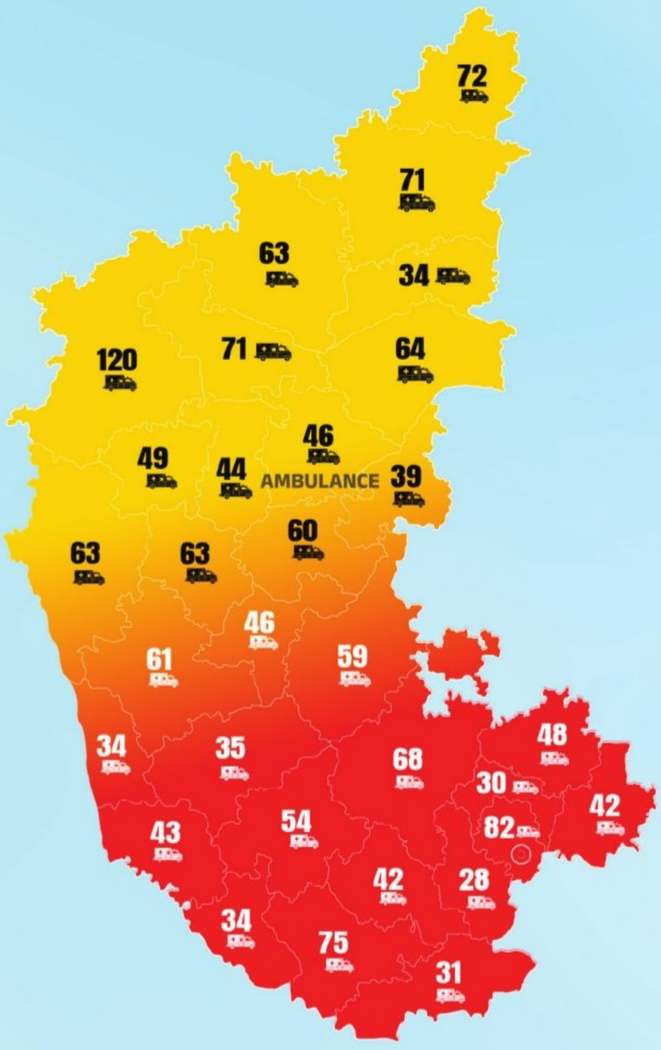
- GIS mapping of Government & Private hospitals
- Identification of nearest suitable treatment facility

ROBUST & SECURE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Hosted on secure Karnataka State Data Centre (KSDC) servers
- Reliable & uninterrupted connectivity through Karnataka State Wide Area Network (KSWAN) & dual SIP trunk lines

REAL-TIME AMBULANCE TRACKING

- Automated vehicle location & tracking enabled ambulances
- Nearest ambulance dispatch with Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) calculation
- SMS alerts with ambulance tracking details
- Patient vitals captured through digital Patient Care Record using Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) devices



*District-Wise Ambulance's across Karnataka

QUICK RESPONSE DURING EMERGENCIES

- Emergency calls answered within 5 seconds
- Automatic Location Based System (LBS) for accurate caller location detection
- Faster ambulance dispatch to save critical time

SMART MEDICAL SUPPORT

- Pre-hospital emergency care with expert medical guidance
- Real-time consultation through MDT devices
- Prior alerts to receiving hospitals for preparedness

COMMITTED TO SAVING LIVES

Providing timely emergency medical care for :

- Pregnant women
- Accident victims
- Health disaster emergencies
- Patients requiring urgent treatment

LARGE & INTEGRATED EMERGENCY FLEET

- Centralized operation of ambulances across Health & allied departments
- Integrated with 104 Health Helpline,
- 112 ERSS, 181 Women & Child Helpline and more
- Emergency medical assistance enabled through the 112 India Mobile App

TECHNOLOGY ENABLED RESPONSE & IMMEDIATE ACTION IN HEALTH EMERGENCIES FOR THE CITIZENS OF KARNATAKA

Inauguration By :
Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Government of Karnataka.

Guest of Honour :
Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister,
Government of Karnataka.

Presided By :
Shri S. Suresh Kumar
Hon'ble MLA, Rajajinagar,
Assembly Constituency.

Date: **25 May 2026** | Time: **11:00 AM**

Venue:
INTEGRATED COMMAND & CONTROL CENTER
Basaveshwara nagar, Bengaluru-560079

Chief Guest :
Shri Dinesh Gundu Rao
Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare,
Government of Karnataka.

Guest of Honour :
Shri Priya Krishna
Hon'ble MLA, Govindarajanagar,
Assembly Constituency.

FASTER RESPONSE. SMARTER CARE. SAVING LIVES 24X7.

DIAL 108 | FREE EMERGENCY SERVICE | AVAILABLE 24X7

Honourable Chief Minister
Shri Siddaramaiah
& Health Minister
Shri Dinesh Gundu Rao
participated in the
department's programme

Protecting public property and renouncing violence is a fundamental constitutional duty of every Indian citizen.

Your Health, Our Priority

ALMANAC TODAY
- **Monday:** 25.05.2026 • **Year:** Parabhava • **Ayana:** Uttharayana
- **Ritu:** Grishma • **Masa:** Adhika Jyeshta • **Paksha:** Shukla • **Tithi:** Navami 7.58 am
- **Nakshatra:** Purvaphalguni 6.25 am • Moon in Kanya Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am
- **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER

MIN 21°C | MAX 33°C

FORECAST Isolated tstorms late.

Sunrise 05.52 am | Sunset 06.40 pm | Moonrise 01.53 pm | Moonset 01.33 am

WASTE MANAGEMENT BODY EYES SHEDDING DIRTY CITY TAG

B'luru, with 3-Star ratings, ranked fifth dirtiest city in Swachh Survekshan survey last year

AKNISREE KARTHIK @ Bengaluru

THE Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) is pinning its hopes on a slew of measures it has taken to improve the Swachh Survekshan ranking this year, as the Silicon City ended up as the fifth dirtiest city in the survey conducted last year.

Ensuring that the majority of the Dry Waste Collection Centres (DWCC) are functioning, redressing garbage-related complaints filed by citizens within 48 hours, mapping of main roads and clearly dividing them among pourakarmikas, blackspot identification and clearance, penalising erring contractors are some of the measures taken to improve the rankings and keep the city clean, said BSWML officials.

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Marshal Colonel (retired) Rajbhir Singh said, "There are 110 DWCCs across the city. Last year, for multiple reasons including non-performance of the centres and non-allotment of tenders to operate them, the majority of them were not functional. This year, 74 of the total 110 are working."

Heaps of garbage piled up along a road in Kumarswamy Layout | KEVIN NASHON

Further, the Swachh Survekshan carries more weightage to citizens' grievance redressal and through the Integrated Command Control Centre (ICCC), BSWML receives around 150 calls related to solid waste, Singh said. "We resolve 90% of the complaints within 48 hours. The complaints that are not resolved in this window are escalated to the next level of officials," he said.

Each pourakarmika is given a dedicated stretch to sweep and keep it clean. They will be monitored by junior health inspectors and marshals. If a particular stretch isn't swept, all the three – the pourakarmika, JHI and marshals – are pulled up, he said.

In addition, there is special focus on clearing blackspots and ensuring that they do not reappear. "Despite all the efforts, there are areas where the garbage collection isn't effectively done by the contractors, forcing residents to dump it along roadsides in slum pockets and other areas. In such areas, the contractors are penalised and the blackspots are cleared before 8.30 am," he said.

BSWML officials admitted absence of documentation of work for the Swachh Survekshan survey. "We have to showcase the works done for the cleanliness of the city, for the welfare of the pourakarmikas and others. This year, we have ensured that the documentation is done effectively to prove the work done," said an official.

BSWML CEO Karee Gowda said cities are awarded ratings from one to seven stars based on their compliance with solid waste management, which includes waste collection, segregation, scientific processing, visible cleanliness etc. "Last year, Bengaluru received 3-star ratings. This year, we are expecting 5-star ratings and expect good ranking," Gowda said.

Members of Voice of Sadashivanagar hold a demonstration to raise awareness as part of Save Sankey Lake movement in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Residents protest against poor state of Sankey Tank

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

RESIDENTS of Sadashivnagar and environmental activists initiated "Save Sankey Tank" campaign on Sunday to raise concerns over the deteriorating condition of Sankey Tank, alleging sewage inflow, blocked rainwater inlets, concretisation and ecological degradation at the iconic lake. The residents said the lake's water levels has drastically reduced despite heavy rainfall in Bengaluru last year. The depletion exposed drains inside the lake, making sewage inflow clearly visible.

Shilpa Jetti, a resident, said they have been noticing the water level declining for several years, but it became more visible over the last five months. She alleged that sewage water was entering the lake through drains.

"There are 11 inlets connected to the lake, but we do not see rainwater entering it anymore. Instead, sewage water is flowing in," she alleged. The obstruction of rainwater inlets is one of the major reasons for the water level dropping, she said. She expressed concern over ongoing concretisation and cutting of trees around the lake. She alleged that a recent tender had reportedly proposed cutting nearly 50 trees near the lake area.

Deepak Jangda, a resident of Sadashivnagar for over four decades, said the issue worsened over the past year and claimed that despite heavy rain in Bengaluru, Sankey Tank failed to fill up. He alleged that rainwater that once naturally flowed into the lake is no longer reaching it. "We are seeing fish dying in the lake now. The lake is severely neglected," he said.

Dr Manu Jagadish, who has been birdwatching at the lake every Sunday for years, said the present condition of the lake is unprecedented in his experience of over five decades. He claimed that migratory birds, including great cormorant that were regularly spotted near the lake until 2022, have disappeared in recent years. "At least 36 birds and 23 nests used to be documented by birdwatchers. Since 2022, they have stopped coming. Ecological changes are clearly affecting biodiversity around the lake," he rued.

Dr Jagadish further alleged that construction debris and concrete blocks from previous redevelopment works are dumped into the lake. With the water level receding, these concrete blocks have now become visible.

Residents demanded immediate measures to stop sewage inflow, clear blocked rainwater inlets and remove debris from the lake bed. They also urged authorities to restore the natural rainwater channels feeding the lake.

Rain: Bengaluru put on yellow alert till Friday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

INDIA Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast issued on Sunday has put Bengaluru on yellow alert for rain till May 29. The city is expected to witness light to moderate rain and thundershowers accompanied by gusty winds throughout the coming week.

The IMD said weather conditions are favourable due to the formation of an upper air cyclonic circulation over the southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas and the weather system is likely to bring widespread rainfall activity across Bengaluru.

The forecast for the city is partly cloudy skies turning generally cloudy towards the afternoon and evening till Monday. Light to moderate rain or thundershowers with gusty winds reaching speeds of 40-50 kmph are likely in some parts of the city. Maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to remain around 32 degrees Celsius and 22 degrees Celsius respectively. While the rain alerts to remain yellow over the week.

Weather data recorded on Sunday morning showed a noticeable drop in temperatures across Bengaluru. The temperatures across many parts of Karnataka were reported to be 2 to 5 degrees Celsius below normal. The city's maximum temperature remained below 30 degrees Celsius, compared to the average of 34 degrees Celsius recorded over the previous week. However, the evening forecast was at 32 degree celsius in Bengaluru city.

A north-south trough extending from south of Bihar to north coastal Andhra Pradesh through Jharkhand and Odisha is also contributing to the present weather activity, IMD officials said.

Most districts including the north interior Karnataka, coastal Karnataka and south interior Karnataka are also under a yellow alert till May 29.

Experts urge govt to draft a new bill for river, mountain conservation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE National Convention on Mountains and Rivers urged the state governments and the central government to introduce a Bill to bring the National Mountain and River Protection Act to preserve, protect and provide sustainable management of mountains and river ecosystems of India.

The Convention proposes to organise a pan-Indian consultation for framing the legal framework to draft the National Mountain and River Protection Act, urging the governments to consider the legal framework that will be developed to present before the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies for adoption.

Retired Justice V Gopala Gowda, Bolishetty Satyanarayana, national coordinator of Jal Biradari, one of the delegates of the convention, and Rajendra Singh, known as Waterman of India, spoke about the importance of environment conservation, particularly the conservation of mountains and rivers, for future generations. Gopala revealed the negative impacts of ignoring environmental issues, "If mountains are destroyed, then rivers will be affected, which can in turn affect irrigation. This will impact the rural and urban population equally," he said. He further stated the importance of centre-state collaboration through the Concurrent List under Schedule 7 of the Constitution while implementing necessary laws to protect the environment.

Rajendra Singh stated that it is high time to discuss nature conservation. Though many Acts have passed in the last 77 years after Independence, they are not implemented properly. Parliament can pass an Act according to the framework of the constitution without "bureaucrats and technocrats using loopholes to do as they wish," he further added.

Bolishetty Satyanarayana shared that "issues arising at mountains will eventually affect the forest, rivers and people." He also emphasized on having "wonderful laws" while there is no protection of the environment and to guide people to take protection of the environment seriously.

Culvert work begins, 60-day traffic curbs on Kamaraj Road

Bengaluru: With the GBA beginning the replacement of an old stone culvert on Kamaraj Road in Shivajinagar Traffic Police Station limits, the movement of all vehicles on the stretch has been restricted for 60 days from Sunday. No traffic movement will be allowed on stretches from Vithoba Temple to Nala Road and from Cubbon Road Junction to Dickenson Junction.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

All vehicles proceeding towards Pulakeshinagar and Banaswadi from Commercial Street via Kamaraj Road shall take a right turn near Vithoba Temple, proceed via Veerapillai Street, take a left turn near Nagamma Temple and take St John's Road. Meanwhile, those moving to Pulakeshinagar and Banaswadi from Cubbon Road via Kamaraj Road must take a right turn at KR Road–Cubbon Road Junction, proceed via Cubbon Road, take a left turn near Manipal Junction, proceed through Dickenson Road, take a right turn near Blue Stone, and continue via St John's Road. All vehicles proceeding towards Pulakeshinagar and Banaswadi from Dispensary Road (Alice Junction) via Kamaraj Road will go via Dickenson Road, take a left turn near Blue Stone and continue via St John's Road.

EXPRESS READ

Teen becomes city's first woman intl chess master

BENGALURU: Bengaluru-based Swara Lakshmi Nair has become the city's first woman international chess master. She is the second player from state to achieve the feat. The 19-year-old achieved the final required norm at the Ptuj IM tournament in May, which is part of the Slovenia Chess tour. Another extra norm was bagged at the Sardinia Festival 2026. Her current rating is 2219. **ENS**

'Mega Retail Credit Outreach Programme' by Central Bank of India

A 'Mega Retail Credit Outreach Programme' was held by Central Bank of India, in Bengaluru, led by MV Murali Krishna, the executive director, alongside P Satish Babu, the regional head of Bengaluru and other bank staff members. The event highlighted specialized financing schemes, providing accessible credit for home ownership, vehicle purchases, and personal needs to empower individual aspirations and drive consumption. **ENS**

17 graduate from Air Force Test Pilots School, five receive awards

BENGALURU: A batch of 11 of its test pilots and six flight test engineers graduated from the Air Force Test Pilots School in Bengaluru on Saturday, after completing a 48-week multi-discipline training curriculum. Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh attended the graduation ceremony as the chief guest. He said the graduates would play a crucial role in the modernisation of the Indian Armed Forces. The graduates comprised 14 from the Indian Air Force, one from the Indian Army and two from the Indian Navy. They will join the aviation wing of the Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment. The Suranjan Das Trophy for the best all-round student test pilot was awarded to Sqn Ldr KK Singh, while the Chief of the Air Staff Trophy for the best student test pilot in flight evaluation was awarded to Sqn Ldr Aditya Jamdagni. The Maharaja Hanumanth Singh Sword for the best allround student flight test engineer was awarded to Wg Cdr Abhinav Kumar. Wg Cdr Pranav Sharma was awarded the Dunlop Trophy for the best student flight test engineer in flight evaluation, and Sqn Ldr Paras Sharma won the Kapil Bhargava Trophy for the best student in ground subjects. **ENS**

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

25th May : Memorial Day Under a Libra Moon A soldier is someone who agrees to stand between danger and others, even when the outcome is uncertain. While training, discipline and the chain of command serve the mission, it's the individual commitment to a group, a protective instinct and the willingness to risk for something beyond the self that forms the heart of what we honor in silence at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Envy is an effective teacher, specific and assertive in showing you precisely what to focus on to enrich your life. No, it's not trying to have what they have, it's finding the version that can be all yours.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
Today brings the reminder that abundance isn't always the goal. There's a point in which too much becomes cumbersome, an obstacle rather than a boon. Travel light, keep operations lean and clean.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
Someone who wants only your happiness will help create it by merely sharing experiences with you. You'll fall in and out of sync and that's part of the music, too. The rub, echo and syncopation is what makes it exciting.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
There's always going to be a gap between the way a person sees themselves and what others see. To have the maximum influence, empowerment and options, make this gap of perception as small as possible.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
Doing the right thing will tie you down a bit because good choices often come with structures. Many jobs, relationships and roles limit your ability to be spontaneous. You can still have your free time though -- you just have to plan it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
Oddly, running can feel more like flying than a ride in a jet does. You have options. Consider how they feel, not just what they are. The life that matters is the one that touches your senses.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
A situation comes with baked-in stress, expectations and timing. Even so, the pressure that goes with the job will not be a problem. After all, you've been known to do very well, if not your best, under pressure.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
The poker player keeps cards "close to the vest" so they remain a secret until the game forces their hand. Likewise, it will help you to play today's "games" with the kind of neutrality that keeps your position mysterious.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Remember when you were sad to lose something, only to be happier than ever once it was gone? There's something in your world right now that, were you to drop it, would significantly improve your mood.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
Creatures in your care run on their own logic. They ignore instructions, follow impulses, create minor chaos and still win your devotion. You appreciate them for their nature, not their compliance, and that affection circles back to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
You've been served -- maybe even saved -- by science and technology. And yet, these schools do not reign supreme over your quality of life. Today's enhancements will come from the realm of love, spirituality, philosophy or art.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
Pattern detection is a superpower that can be applied widely. You track the plot, noting interactions and dynamics that repeat. Record and preserve your observations so others can learn from them, too. There may be money in this later.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

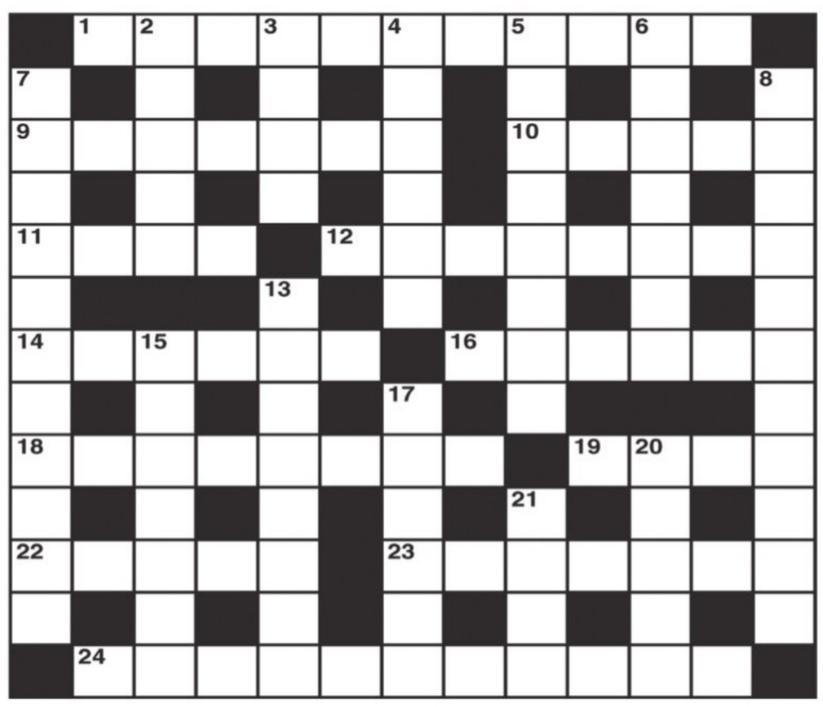
3	9	2					4	
5			3	6				9
	7	1	2	4			3	
				2			5	6
	6		8		3		9	
9	8			5				
	1			9	2	3	7	
7				1	6			2
	2					1	6	5

9	1	4	5	2	6	3	7	8
8	5	7	4	3	1	9	2	6
6	2	3	9	7	8	1	4	5
1	4	6	7	8	3	2	5	9
2	9	8	1	5	4	6	3	7
7	3	5	6	9	2	8	1	4
5	8	1	2	6	7	4	9	3
4	6	9	3	1	5	7	8	2
3	7	2	8	4	9	5	6	1

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Seen in a list perhaps but it's not necessary (11)
9 Married wrong lover (7)
10 Permission to depart (5)
11 Capricious youngsters (4)
12 State of a malformed holm oak (8)
14 Pub arranged to have meals in every bar (6)
16 This seat is uncomfortable for a nap (6)
18 Blunt lie about a report (8)
19 Go to get some citrus flavouring (4)
22 Reversible revolver (5)
23 Stop for Jack to revive (5,2)
24 Informal description of a promotional competition? (4-3-4)

DOWN
2 He has no settled occupation (5)
3 His place was among the lesser fellows (4)
4 Well-known bather's shout (6)
5 Misinformed I led a lot astray (4,1,3)
6 Bewildered by how a bankrupt business was run (2,1,4)
7 Bet on songs being out-of-date (4,7)
8 Not a crime but it may need a lawyer's help (5,6)
13 Happy-go-lucky benefit of a welfare state? (8)
15 Brace of fresh lobster (7)
17 It may bring colour to a typist's work (6)
20 They're used for cutting borders (5)
21 A country one's entered before (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Bunion, 4 Bludgeon, 9 Almost, 10 Aglitter, 12 Reed, 13 Smear, 14 Stye, 17 Clears the air, 20 Above average, 23 Bets, 24 Aspen, 25 Crop, 28 Extremes, 29 Frieze, 30 Suspense, 31 Census.

Down: 1 Boat race, 2 Numbered, 3 Oust, 5 Luggage label, 6 Drip, 7 Estate, 8 Nurses, 11 Empty vessels, 15 Arabs, 16 Liver, 18 Fairness, 19 Helpless, 21 Abbess, 22 States, 26 Here, 27 Urge.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

OKCNK

CWTEI

VEECRL

SYSGRA

I think this is about as much as I want to do today.
I'm right there with you.
3
30
THEIR VACATION TO FLORIDA'S SOUTHERNMOST TOURIST DESTINATION WAS ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: ( ) - ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: LINER COUGH BARREL ASSIGN
Answer: Godfrey Bowen's new method for removing wool from sheep was — "SHEAR" GENIUS

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CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

CBSE SAYS GLITCH LED TO INCORRECT FEE DEDUCTION

The board said on Sunday that it will issue refunds to students who were overcharged during Class 12 post-result process due to technical issues. On May 21 and 22, certain technical issues led to incorrect fee deductions from students who were applying for scanned copies of evaluated answer books, the CBSE said. "In some instances, excess payment was deducted, while in others, lesser amounts were charged," it said | P9

Iran peace deal in sight but not rushing it, says Trump

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

THE US and Iran on Sunday appeared to edge closer to a breakthrough agreement that could end months of conflict in West Asia, reopening the Strait of Hormuz and imposing fresh curbs on Tehran's nuclear programme, even as differences persisted over uranium enrichment and regional control.

US President Donald Trump said negotiations were progressing in a "constructive manner" and insisted Tehran "must understand" that it cannot develop a nuclear weapon.

Trump also confirmed the US blockade linked to the ongoing conflict would remain in place until a deal was reached.

The remarks came amid hectic parleys involving the US, Israel and Iran after three months of confrontation that disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and rattled global markets.

Earlier in the day, during a joint press conference with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in New Delhi, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio claimed a breakthrough is imminent. "There is the possibility that in the next few hours the world will get some good news," he said.

Rubio said progress had been made over the past 48 hours on a framework that could stabilise the Strait of Hormuz.

The US administration has repeatedly maintained that preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon remains its central objective. "Iran can never possess a nuclear weapon," Rubio said. "The ultimate goal is to make sure Iran could never have a nuclear weapon."

According to *Axios*, *CNN* and *The New York Times* reports, negotiators are finalising a 60-day ceasefire arrangement that would immediately reopen the Strait of Hormuz and create a window for broader negotiations over dismantling parts of Iran's nuclear programme.

However, conflicting messages from Iran suggested major disagreements remain unresolved. The Iranian Embassy in Delhi said Tehran has the right to "peaceful use of nuclear science and technology" and that "Iran will never relinquish this lawful and internationally recognised right".

Iranian state media also disputed Trump's claim that the Strait would be fully reopened under the proposed arrangement.

I love India and PM Modi, says Trump

Trump on Sunday made a surprise live video appearance at an event in Delhi attended by Rubio, praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a close friend and asserting that India-US ties had "never been closer". Speaking on a giant screen installed at the event marking the 250th anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence, Trump described himself as a "big fan" of the Indian Prime Minister. "I love the Prime Minister. Modi is great. He's my friend," Trump said during the virtual address. P11

US, too, has stupid people, comments Rubio

Rubio defended America's image as a welcoming country when asked about racist remarks targeting Indians in the US, saying such comments reflected the actions of "stupid people" and not American society at large. "Every country in the world has stupid people... stupid people in US make dumb comments all the time," he said

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
GUARANTEE HABBA
Stepping into the 4th year
Gruha Jyothi
Up to 200 units of free electricity per house
Over the past three years, Guarantee Sarkara, through the Gruha Jyothi Scheme, has provided up to 200 units of free electricity, reducing household expenses and enabling families to use their savings towards better livelihoods and a more secure future
₹26,115 Crore
Support has been provided under the Gruha Jyothi Scheme, easing the financial burden on households across Karnataka
Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
1.64 Crore Families are benefiting under the Gruha Jyothi Scheme, helping build more secure and financially stable lives
D K Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Siddaramaiah and Hon'ble Minister Shri K.J. George addressing the Press
Scan the QR Code to Witness the Impact of Gruha Jyothi
Shakthi
Anna Bhagya
Gruha Lakshmi
Yuva Nidhi
CMofKarnataka
https://dipr.karnataka.gov.in/
"To protect and respect our vibrant culture and tradition," is a Fundamental Duty of every citizen. This is affirmed by our Constitution.
karnataka information

AI data centres adding to heat island effect in Bengaluru

KALYANI WARRIER @ Bengaluru

AN increasing number of data centres is aggravating the "heat island" effect in Bengaluru, which is commonly experiencing heavy thunderstorms and hailstorms due to it. Experts have sought regulated use of artificial intelligence (AI) data centres to avoid such phenomena, and urged the state government to help spread awareness about the adverse impacts of mushrooming data centres in the city.

Besides further contributing to the "heat island" effect, these centres add to noise pollution, air pollution, water wastage and increase the cost for home energy users.

Massive amounts of natural resources are required for cooling and heating the systems that assist smooth functioning of AI data centres. Experts have red-flagged massive consumption of water by the increasing number of AI data centres, with Bengaluru already hosting 31 data centres, while two are under construction, as per the Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T, Karnataka. Beyond Bengaluru, there is only one centre – in Mangaluru. P7

EXPRESS READ

Retd teacher in 'digi-arrest' loses ₹24 cr, 6 held

BENGALURU: In a major cyber fraud case, a 74-year-old retired teacher was allegedly kept under "digital arrest" for nearly four months and cheated of Rs 24 crore. The State Cyber Command Unit arrested six accused from different states. The massive fraud came to light due to the timely alertness of a private bank manager, which not only prevented the woman from losing more money but also exposed the large-scale cyber scam. The victim, Lakshmi Ramamurthy, is a resident of Shivajinagar in Bengaluru and lives alone in an apartment while her children reside abroad. She had also worked as a teacher in Dubai |P5

Leopard that killed boy in MM Hills caught

MYSURU: A leopard that had attacked and killed a 10-year-old boy during a pilgrimage to Nagamale near the Male Mahadeshwara Hills has finally been captured by the forest department after a 14-day operation. The officials confirmed that the leopard was trapped in a cage installed in a strategic position | P7

Second autopsy conducted on Twisha

BHOPAL: A team of doctors from AIIMS Delhi completed the second autopsy of 33-year-old model-actor Twisha Sharma in Bhopal on Sunday. The AIIMS team will submit its report in a sealed envelope to the Special Investigation Team, as directed by the Madhya Pradesh High Court | P9

Ten, including 9 women, drown in Bhatkal estuary

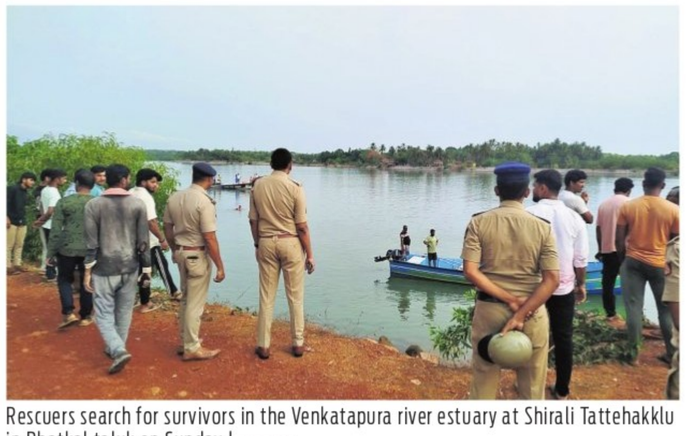
SUBHASH CHANDRA NS
@Shirali Thattehakklu

IN a shocking incident, 10 persons, nine of them women, met a watery grave when they were collecting bivalves at the Venkatapura river estuary at Shirali Tattehakklu at Padushirali of Bhatkal taluk on Sunday morning.

In what is considered to be one of the biggest tragedies in recent history, 13 persons – 11 women and two men – had entered the estuary at Shirali Tattehakklu when they were washed away by rising waters. They had not heeded the Met department warning issued on Saturday against venturing into the sea.

Local residents said the sea was in low tide after continuous rain throughout the night. When the water level rose and the victims started screaming, fishermen jumped into the sea and pulled out 11 persons. But eight of them were already dead, while two were in serious condition. "The incident occurred at 10 am," Uttara Kannada Superintendent of Police MN Deepan told *The New Indian Express*.

The deceased were identified as Lakshmi Madhev Naik (38), Lakshmi Mahadev Naik, Lakshmi Shivaram Naik, Mastamma Manjunath Naik (43), Lakshmi Anappa Naik (44), Jyothi Nagappa Naik (37), Malathi Jatappa Naik (38) and Umesh Manjunath Naik (44). P7



Rescuers search for survivors in the Venkatapura river estuary at Shirali Tattehakklu in Bhatkal taluk on Sunday | EXPRESS

Union MoS for Railways V Somanna has said that the Mangaluru-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express train will start operating from June and PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate the services. He was speaking to reporters after inspecting the ongoing development work at Mangaluru Junction railway station

B TO A: THE KHATA CONUNDRUM

Is the state govt's 'Bhoo Guarantee Scheme', which enables B khata holders to convert their properties into A khata in five corporations falling under the GBA, on paying a hefty fee merely a revenue earning ploy? Many, including owners of B khata properties, question need for such a scheme, while the government claims it as a bold administrative measure that allows property owners to avail bank loans and get other facilities, while also enhancing their property valuations. *TNIE* scans the contested landscape and lays bare the pros and cons

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

The government announces its sixth guarantee -- 'Bhoo Guarantee Scheme', 'My e-Khata, My Rights -- which enables B khata property holders to convert their properties into A khata in the five corporations falling under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA)

Move to benefit over seven lakh B khata holders. A campaign to be held every Saturday at 52 locations in the city

The scheme is aimed at helping owners regularise their properties, bringing unauthorised properties under a formal regulatory framework and increasing property tax revenue

Those who get A-Khata can avail bank loans from nationalised banks and get other facilities, while it also increases the property value

Cuts down the guidance value fee from

5% -2 %

Scheme to be valid for 100 days till August 23

E khata citizen open house data across five city corporations under the Bhoo Guarantee scheme till May 23

AKNISREE KARTHIK & MOHAMMED YACOOB

AS the sixth guarantee, the Congress government announced the 'Bhoo Guarantee Scheme' that enables B khata property holders to convert their properties into A khata in the five corporations falling under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). Though the government announced the conversion scheme last year, there was hardly any response from property owners. This time, the government has given a new nomenclature to the old scheme, and to encourage people to come forward and avail the conversion, it has cut the fee from 5% of the guidance value to just 2%, giving a whopping 60 per cent discount.

According to the data shared by the government at the recent launch of the scheme, the city has 23 lakh properties -- 16 lakh A khata and seven lakh B khata. The property details were nin over 7,000 manual registers that have been scanned and digitised. As per experts, the scheme, if successful, is expected to generate a revenue of over Rs 10,000 crore.

Civic body's failure led to creation of B khata

Thousands of Bengalureans had the option of buying B khata properties decades ago when prices were low, but chose not to fearing that they would be demolished by the government. But now, the government is legalising that transaction asking people to convert their properties by paying a fee. Civic experts say the concept of B khata is nowhere else in India and it is the result of civic body's failure in preventing it in the first place.

"First of all, the government created a problem by giving clearance to projects with deviations and also creating a B khata system, which is completely wrong. Now, they charge an amount for the conversion, which means they are regularising by taking some more money," said Srikanth Narasimhan, Founder and General Secretary of Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP), a city-focused political party.

He demanded that the government first set right the process where no new illegal structures are given permissions or any type of khatas, and that is the only way to solve the problem in the long-term. "The e-khata process is still riddled with many issues. For many people, the e-PID is still not loaded in the system, which makes it impossible for them to get their e-khatas. For projects that were originally part of the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) or panchayats but are now in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) area, there is still no clearly defined process. This leads to agents ruling the roost as well as revenue officials going berserk with demanding bribes, etc.," Narasimhan said.

BNP demands that the backend and processes are set right before taking the e-khata system further, else corruption will continue.

Why spend lakhs to get a government record?

Convenor of Karnataka Home Buyers Forum Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar said a High Court order clearly states that if the deed is registered, purchasers have already paid stamp duty, and there is no need to pay extra money to enter the purchaser's name in revenue records.

Going by the government's claim, of over seven lakh B khata properties, only 7,000 applications have been received for khata conversion, he said.

"A property buyer already pays 7% stamp duty. Even after paying this hefty amount, what is the need to pay for khata conversion? The government should have collected developmental charges from the layout developers in the first place. But they let them go and are now pressurising innocent property owners to pay. How justifiable is this scheme? I call upon property owners not to pay any fee to get their khatas converted. As against the government's claim, even B khata property owners can avail loans", Padmanabhachar said.

"Khata means a government-issued letter confirming that the owner's name is entered in the revenue records. For that, why should the public pay additional money? It's the government's duty to enter the names so that they can collect property tax from the new owners," he argues.

Joining him is NS Mukunda, founder member of Bengaluru Praja Vedike, who questions the need for the Bhoo Guarantee Scheme. "This is illegal and nothing but 'Akrama Sakrama'. If the government is dragged to court, the scheme would be stayed. Many citizens followed all the rules and declined to buy B khata properties, though they were available at low cost. The regularisation of properties on illegal layouts and with violations is a mockery of those who followed all the bylaws," Mukunda said.

Both Mukunda and Padmanabhachar argued that for khata conversion, the whopping discount has been offered only to mop up revenue to the five new city corporations. They alleged that it is not to help people, but to garner votes in the upcoming elections to the city corporations.

Bold step to resolve a long-pending issue

Dr MK Sridharan from Civic Solutions said the scheme appears to be a bold administrative measure aiming to resolve a long-pending issue in Bengaluru, while intelligently mobilising resources for the state government.

BIG PICTURE

"But this one-time regularisation opportunity may not serve the purpose unless it is executed professionally and without corruption. This could be a disincentive to residents who have built their houses abiding by all building laws. The government should actively involve direct public participation in supervising urban development and management in a structured way to achieve this goal," Sridharan said.

He suggested that the scheme can achieve long-term success if it incorporates three essential elements -- mandating a minimum setback on all four sides, stilt parking floor on small plots, and increasing the minimum road width from the current 6ft/9ft to accommodate footpath and smooth two-way traffic after allowing roadside parking.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also Bengaluru Development Minister, boasts that no other government had taken up khata conversion, and they are repaying the trust of the people through the Bhoo Guarantee Scheme. He said that by converting B khata to A khata, owners can avail bank loans and get other facilities, while the property value too appreciates.

Though there is no clear picture on how the government arrived at levying 2% (5% without discount) of the guidance value as fee for khata conversion, experts say it is to compensate for the development charges.

What property owners say

Some property owners said khata conversion will help as A khata properties have a higher value. When B khata properties were bought, the owners would have paid less for the plots as well as the registration.

A property owner in Kadirenahalli said he has to pay Rs 3.5 lakh to get the A khata. He said he was eagerly waiting for such a scheme, but when it is here, he does not have money and is not too keen this time. He is, however, confident that the government will announce the scheme again.

Kochhu Shankar, a property owner in Horamavu, said, "I bought 3,100 sqft of land for Rs 2.5 lakh 30 years ago. Under the new scheme, if I have to get my khata converted, I have to pay Rs 4 lakh. I already paid hefty betterment charges for water and power supply, and I am paying all the taxes. I am not sure how this khata conversion is going to help me. The government is just looking at collecting money from us."

He said, "The government claims that by converting to A khata, properties would become 'transactable'. However, what happens after the scheme ends in 100 days? Will properties become 'un-trasactable'? This looks nothing less than an extortion by the government."

Unnecessary burden on flat owners

Asked if khata conversion will help flat owners, Padmanabhachar said, "Bhoo Guarantee is a great help to builders and landowners who violated the sanction plan, and a penalty is being imposed on flat owners. If the building is not constructed as per the sanction plan and if there was No Occupancy Certificate and khata, the sub-registrar should not have allowed the transfer of property from promoters to home buyers. Once the government allows registration of sale deeds, it's their duty to update the revenue records with buyer names for collecting property tax."

While there is no official data on the exact number of apartments in Bengaluru, the forum said that as per their estimate, there are over 20,000 apartments in the city, housing over 25 lakh flats.

CM to seek top brass nod for cabinet rejig during Delhi visit

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru, New Delhi

KARNATAKA Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is scheduled to travel to New Delhi on May 26 for high-level deliberations with the Congress high command— Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and KC Venugopal— a visit that is being viewed as significant for the state's political future. Sources indicate that the CM will primarily seek the party leadership's nod for a much-anticipated reshuffle of his cabinet and this will the first big reshuffle.

The proposed rejig is expected to address long-pending demands for better representation and performance-based changes within the government. Apart from the ministerial reshuffle, names of three candidates for Rajya Sabha elections and nominations for the Legislative Council are also likely to be discussed.

After the MLC election, the Congress will be the biggest party in the Upper House and the next chairman is expected to be from the party.

These appointments are seen as critical for strengthening the party's presence in the Council and rewarding loyalists ahead of key electoral battles.

While there has been speculation in some quarters that the broader question of leadership in Karnataka Congress could come up during the visit, a senior party leader dismissed such talk as "wishful thinking". The leadership issue, according to the leader, is not on the agenda and remains settled in favour of the current arrangement.

The Delhi trip is also expected to cover the Congress' strategy for the upcoming GBA and other local and assembly-level elections. With the party aiming to consolidate its position in urban and rural pockets of Karnataka, fine-tuning campaign strategies and candidate selection processes will be key focus areas. Political observers note that the outcome of this visit could have a bearing on the stability and direction of the Congress government in Karnataka, especially as the party looks to maintain momentum after its victory in the 2023 Assembly elections.

The Chief Minister's Office has not issued an official statement on the itinerary or the specific agenda, but party insiders confirm that Siddaramaiah will hold meetings with top Congress leadership, and other central observers.

Be alert on SIR, Cong tells its rank and file

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, and AICC General Secretary Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala on Sunday asked the Congress' ranks and files, including MLAs, to be cautious about the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, as they fear it would be Karnataka's turn after West Bengal to be subjected to the "deletion of millions of genuine voters".

In Karnataka, the exercise is scheduled to begin on June 20.

This comes after last week's cabinet meeting, which discussed various options, including approaching the Supreme Court, over SIR. The Congress has been alleging that the exercise is a conspiracy to delete genuine voters from the electoral roll. The Grand Old Party alleges that SIR helped the BJP secure a landslide victory in West Bengal. The Congress leadership in Karnataka held a meeting with its ministers, as well as sitting and former MLAs, at a resort near Nandi Hills, near Bengaluru, in this regard.

According to informed sources, Congress leaders asked the gathering to ensure the names of genuine voters are not deleted from the electoral roll. They have been advised to keep a tab on the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) who will be engaged in the SIR process and activate the BLOs of the party.

Congress leaders at a party convention on SIR near Bengaluru on Sunday

The marathon meeting discussed the SIR issue in detail in the wake of the forthcoming polls to five city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).. The Supreme Court had recently set a deadline to complete the election process by August 31, 2026. The GBA polls are crucial as they would set a trend for future polls in the state, including zilla and taluk panchayat polls, and the 2028 Assembly elections.

A presentation on how the BJP won the Assembly polls in several states, allegedly by misusing the SIR,was presented. Of the 136 Congress MLAs in Karnataka, 70 to 80 of them had turned up and the remaining, including KPCC office-bearers, are expected to take part in a workshop scheduled to be held on Monday.

KPCC to set up war room

It has been decided to set up a war room at the KPCC office, where party workers can report if any discrepancies are found during the SIR exercise. They were also asked to bring the developments to the notice of the State Government as well.

SIR unconstitutional: Priyank

Speaking to reporters, Karnataka RDPR and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge called the SIR unconstitutional."In West Bengal, citing logical discrepancies, even eligible voters were removed from the electoral roll. That is not correct," Priyank told reporters. "Even if we ask for an explanation, neither the Chief Election Commissioner nor the Election Commission is giving any clear information," he said. "For example, if 99% of voters in my constituency Chittapur, are mapped, and tomorrow the ECI says it's not 99% but only 55%, it becomes 55%... they are not providing any reasons for this," he said.

Cong raking up SIR issue to cover up its failures: HDK

Union Minister and former CM HD Kumaraswamy alleged that the Congress is spreading misinformation about the SIR and is trying to divert public attention to cover up its failures.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru on Sunday, Kumaraswamy criticised the Congress' stand on the issue. He said that the Congress leaders keep trying to remain in the news by taking up one issue after another. "A few days ago they kept talking about MGNREGA, and now they have started raising SIR. People gave them an opportunity to govern, but they lack the mindset to work for the people. They are using this issue to divert public attention," Kumaraswamy added.

Fans of Pandit Bhimsen Joshi rejoiced and distributed sweets after Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted the legendary vocalist's music CDs to Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. Now, music lovers in Gadag are demanding a memorial in Gadag named after him who hails from the region and his relatives continue to live there

Retd teacher in 'digital arrest' loses ₹24 cr; 6 held

Bank manager flagged frequent high-value transactions to police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

(From left) The arrested Sivagnanam, Akkach, Gaurav, Amit, Palak, and Om Prakash

IN a major cyber fraud case, a 74-year-old retired teacher was allegedly kept under "digital arrest" for nearly four months and cheated of Rs 24 crore. The State Cyber Command Unit arrested six accused from different states. The massive fraud came to light because of the timely alertness of a private bank manager, which not only prevented the woman from losing more money but also exposed the large-scale cyber scam.

The accused are N Sivagnanam from Erode, Tamil Nadu; Akkach Mallick from Mumbai, Maharashtra; Palak Bhai Patel and Amit Narendra Patel from Ahmedabad, Gujarat; Om Prakash Rajput from New Delhi; and Gaurav Kumar from Bihar. The victim, Lakshmi Ramamurthy, is a resident of Shivajinagar, lives alone in an apartment, while her children reside abroad. She had also worked as a teacher in Dubai.

The accused used the 'digital arrest' tactic by posing as senior officials from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED). They claimed that she was involved in an illegal money laundering case and kept her under constant fear and surveillance. Fearing legal action, Lakshmi transferred Rs 24 crore to the fraudsters in phases between February 10 and March 24. The accused were still not satisfied and allegedly demanded more money.

To source additional funds, Lakshmi went to her bank to pledge 1.3 kg of gold ornaments kept at her house. Observing her behaviour and repeated high-value transactions, the branch manager grew suspicious and informed the police. The police rushed to the bank and questioned Lakshmi. Initially, the frightened woman was unwilling to speak, but after the police reassured her and questioned her patiently, the truth about the "digital arrest" came to light, the police said.

The police registered a complaint based on her statement, informed her children and began the investigation. The probe revealed that Lakshmi had transferred the money 26 times into 23 mule bank accounts linked to 10 different banks across the country. The accused while speaking to Lakshmi learnt that she had recently sold a plot and had a large amount of money, that led them to target her and extort more money.

Using money trail analysis, technical details, and other evidence, the police arrested six persons from different states.

The officer added that the police were able to freeze several mule accounts used for layering and laundering the money with the help of the NCRP portal. The police managed to freeze over Rs 4 crore and recovered Rs 1.46 crore from the accused.

Gelatin sticks on PM's route: Six cops suspended

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FOLLOWING the discovery of gelatin sticks during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Bengaluru, six police personnel, including a police sub-inspector from Bengaluru South district, were suspended for alleged dereliction of duty.

On May 10, hours before Modi's arrival at the Art of Living Foundation centre, a box containing two gelatin sticks and a circuit-like setup was found near the NICE Road Junction on Kanakapura Road, which was along the PM's convoy route. A police constable deployed for security bandobast noticed the box.

The Kaggalipura police station registered a case under the Explosive Substances Act and is conducting the investigation.

Gelatin sticks with a circuit-like setup found on May 10 when PM was in city

The suspension order was issued by Bengaluru South District SP Srinivas Gowda following an internal inquiry into lapses in the security arrangements during the PM's visit.

A police sub-inspector attached to the Sathanur police station, an assistant sub-inspector with the Kaggalipura police station, and four other personnel who were part of the security deployment have been placed under suspension pending inquiry.

KEEPING WATCH

The police put up barricades around Town Hall in Bengaluru to prevent members of the Cockroach Janta Party from protesting, on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Online IPL betting racket busted, 5 held

RAKSHITH GOWDA @ Bengaluru

SLEUTHS of the Special Enquiry Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) have uncovered an organised online cricket betting network allegedly operating during the ongoing IPL tournament and arrested five master bookies in separate cases. The accused allegedly collected money from the public as betting stakes and provided betting IDs to punters, sub-bookies, and agents through online platforms.

A police officer told TNIE that over the last 20 days, three cases were registered at the CCB following tip-offs and information regarding organised online cricket betting operations being run using mobile phones. The arrested accused were 'master bookies' who had allegedly purchased betting points online, suspected to have originated from Delhi and Mumbai. All three cases were booked under the Karnataka Police Act and Section 112 (petty organised crime) of the BNS.

The police have seized their mobile phones and are also probing how the accused obtained betting IDs and other related details, and further investigations are underway. Under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime-1) Shrihari Babu BL, the Special Enquiry Wing has been cracking down on organised betting rackets.

Recently, a team led by police inspector Arun Salunke of the CCB arrested three persons identified as Syed Dastagir (45), a resident of Kanteerava Nagar; Sajayath (40), a resident of Padarayanapura; and another accused for allegedly running an organised online cricket betting racket. Meanwhile, a team led by police Inspector MJ Dayananda arrested a man identified as Dileep near Muddinapalya Main Road in Annapoorneshwari Nagar. In another incident, accused Kranthi Kumar Jain was arrested near Liciya City Centre in SJ Park for allegedly being involved in similar betting activities.

SCALING HEIGHTS

B'luru mountaineers scale Mt Everest after 46-day expedition

Santhosh Devarajappa and Chinmayee Thrishulamurthy pose for a picture at the top of Mount Everest | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

TWO Bengaluru-based mountaineers, Santhosh Devarajappa, a 40-year-old businessman, and Dr Chinmayee Thrishulamurthy, 45, an ophthalmologist, scaled Mount Everest on May 21, marking the 60th anniversary celebrations of the Karnataka Mountaineering Association (KMA).

According to the association, the duo reached the summit of the world's tallest peak, standing at 29,031 feet (8,848.86 metres), at 12.10 pm IST on May 21 through the traditional southeast South Col route from Nepal. The climbers had begun their expedition from Bengaluru on April 4 and reached Kathmandu before commencing the arduous ascent. As part of their acclimatisation and preparation for the Everest climb, they had earlier scaled Lobuche East, which stands at 20,070 feet, on April 22.

> **The successful Everest summit coincided with KMA completing 60 years. The association had played a significant role in promoting mountaineering activities among more than 20,000 members over the years**
>
> S Srivatsa, member, KMA

The expedition was flagged off by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at Vidhana Soudha on March 9. A separate send-off event was later organised at Yavanika in Bengaluru on March 22 in the presence of adventure enthusiasts, friends and well-wishers.

The association said the climbers endured extreme weather conditions, high altitude challenges and difficult terrain during the 46-day expedition before reaching the summit.

Speaking to *TNIE*, S Srivatsa from the association said the successful Everest summit coincided with KMA completing 60 years. He added that the association had played a significant role in promoting mountaineering activities among more than 20,000 members over the years. He also noted that space had been provided at Sree Kanteerava Stadium to help the association continue its training and adventure activities.

CRIME PATROL

Man used fake SC order to walk out of prison 8 yrs ago

BENGALURU: A convict in a kidnapping-for-ransom case secured his release and walked out of prison eight years ago, allegedly using a fabricated Supreme Court order. His release has now come under the scanner of prison officials, who filed a case against the accused with the Parappana Agrahara police. The police said Shankar Armugam, who was serving a life sentence after his conviction in a 2011 kidnapping-for-ransom case, allegedly submitted fabricated Supreme Court documents to the Bengaluru Central Prison authorities and got himself released. The accused allegedly paid Rs 10,000 and was released from prison in November 2018 after producing the fake documents. The Director General of Police (Prisons) received a petition following which an internal inquiry was conducted which revealed that forged and fabricated documents were submitted. The police said they have launched a manhunt for the accused. ENS

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CENTRAL RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR
No. 2689 / Date:- 15.05.2026
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works
2500 1/243/2627

1.	Name of the Work	:	Road Works under Mukhya Mantri Sadak Yojana (MMSY)
2.	Total No. of works	:	10 Nos. of Road works for the year 2026-27
3.	Estimated Cost of the work	:	Varies from Rs.303.97 lakh to Rs.682.20 lakh
4.	Class of Contractor	:	
	a) Estimated cost more than Rs. 20.00 lakh up to Rs. 3.00 Crores.	:	B Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
	b) Estimated cost more than Rs. 1.00 Crore up to Rs. 20.00 Crores.		A Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
	c) Estimated cost more than Rs. 6.00 Crore up to Rs. 50.00 Crores.		Special Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
	d) Estimated cost more than Rs. 20.00 Crores.		Super Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
5.	Period of completion	:	As mentioned in Column-7 of Annexure
6.	Offered rates by bidder	:	The offered rate by the contractor shall be excluding GST
7.	Other details	:	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6
Chief Construction Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bubaneswar	Tender- Online-C.C.09 of 2026	01.06.2026 at 11.00 AM	18.06.2026 Up to 5.00 PM	19.06.2026 at 11.00 AM	To be intimated later on

Further details can be seen from the web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in
OIPR- 2500 1/25082/1/26-27/0008 Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA
E_Mail ID : serwcbaripada@gmail.com,
Ph-No-06792-261343/261344, Gangraj, Baripada
"e" Procurement Notice for Plan Road Work
Identification No.- Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No. 413 for 2026-27.
25001/213/2627 Letter No.2871/ Date.14.05.2026

1 Name of the work :- Road Works in the District of Mayurbhanj for the year 2026-27.
2. Total No. of work :- 41 Nos. (Forty One)
3. Estimated Cost :- Rs.100.09 Lakhs to Rs.495.90 Lakhs (approximately).
4. Eligible Class of Contractor :- As per annexure
5. Period of Completion :- As per annexure.
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W. Circle, Baripada.	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada	Road On-line N.C.B. NO.413	Dt. 28.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt. 12.06.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt. 11.06.2026 up to 1.00 P.M.	Dt. 16.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

• Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in., • Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.
OIPR-25001/25130/1/26-27/0012 Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, R. W. Circle, Baripada

3rd YEAR FOND REMEMBRANCE

Sri S. CHENNARAYA REDDY,
B.A., B.L., ADVOCATE,
"Today and every day you are in our thoughts and in our hearts. We miss you very much"
~Inserted by ~
C. Shankar Reddy, Advocate
K. Anitha, Advocate
Ganav S. Reddy and Devansh S. Reddy
landline: 7619258548

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued **demand notices** to the borrower(s)/ Co-borrowers(s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and/or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
1	47049630000300 & 47049410000201	1) Mr. Krishna M V, S/o. Venkatesh, 2) Mrs. Nagamma, W/o. Mr. Venkatesh	12.03.2026 Rs.6,99,201.86 (Rupees Six Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Two Hundred One and Eighty Six Paisa Only) due as on 05-03-2025	Date: 22-05-2026 Time: 04:12 PM Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All that Piece and parcel of the property No. 152900202700420094/90/1, measuring East to West 12.192 Meter and North to South 12.192 Meter, situated at Mullahalli Village, Mullahalli Grama Panchayath, Kanakapura Block, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** House belongs to Sakamma, **West by:** Road, **North by:** House Belongs to Gundaiah, **South by:** Road.			
2	47059410000111 47059410000699 & 47059630000427	1) Anju, D/o. Byrappa, 2) Mrs. Gowramma, W/o. Byrappa, 3) Mr. Byrappa, S/o. Venkatappa	12.03.2026 Rs.5,30,954.11 (Rupees Five Lakh Thirty Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty-Four and Eleven Paisa Only) due as on 10-03-2026 and interest threon	Date: 22-05-2026 Time: 05:55 P.M Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the for Property E Khatha No.152900204300600238, Khaneshumari No.255/15/201/184, measuring East to West 4.57 meters and North to South 8.53 meters, situated at Jakkasandra Village, Chiluru Gram Panchayath, Kanakapura Block, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Property belongs to Jaggaiah @ Thimmaiah, **West by:** House belongs to Doddamma, **North by:** Road, **South by:** House belongs to Srinivasa.			
3	47040430001475	1) Mrs. Shivamalagamma, W/o. Late Shivanegowda (Co-Borrower/ Mortgagor & Legal Heir of Borrower Deceased Late Shivanegowda)	05-03-2026 Rs.4,70,676.85 (Rupees Four Lakhs Seventy Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Six and Eighty Five Paisa Only) due as on 04-03-2026	Date: 22-05-2026 Time: 04:44 PM Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All the piece and parcel of the Khaneshumari No.1/1 Measuring East to West 50 Feet (15.243 Meter) and North to South 57 Feet (17.37 meter), situated at Bevinamara Doddi Village, Bannimukodilu Gram Panchayath, Kodihalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dustrict and **Bounded on: East by:** Government Road, **West by:** Remaining Own Property, **North by:** School, **South by:** House belongs to Ramesha.			

Whereas the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower's mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the properties/ secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/ Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Place: Bangalore Rural | Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Date: 23.05.2026 | For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank)
Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangala Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) | Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 &12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangala Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

E-AUCTION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISO RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002.

The undersigned as authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that online auction (e-auction)of the mortgage property in the below mentioned account for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS "** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** on the date as prescribed as here under.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of 13-2 Notice	Date of Possession	Present Outstanding balance as on 21.05.2026	Date & Time of Inspection of the property	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of E-Auction	Last Date Time & Place for submission of Bid
1	45479630002317	1) Mr. Guruswamy, Also at: M/s. SLV Balemandi & Fruit Stall, 2) Mrs. Geetha, 3) Mrs. Dakshayanamma	18-01-2025	25-02-2026	Rs.4,77,342.21 (Rupees Four Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Three Hundred Forty Two and Twenty One Paisa Only)	15.06.2026 Time: 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.2,33,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Only)	Rs.23,300/- (Rupees Twenty Three Thousand Three Hundred Only)	29.06.2026 @ 02:00 PM	26.06.2026, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.111/1, Assessment No.142 situated at Begur Village, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, presently comes under the limits of Kambalipura Village Panchayath and **Bounded by the: East by:** House of Ramappa, **West by:** Government Road, **North by:** House of Chikka Narayanappa, **South by:** Vacant Place of Ramappa. Measuring (33+40)/2X (47 +46)/2 Feet									
2	46459610000062 & 46459410001331	1) Mr. Venkatesh, 2) Mrs. D M Anitha	24-07-2025	25-02-2026	Rs.9,93,182.39 (Rupees Nine Lakh Ninety Three Thousand One Hundred Eighty Two and Thirty Nine Paisa Only)	15.06.2026 Time: 09:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.6,30,000/- (Rupees Six Lakh Thirty Thousand Only)	Rs.63,000/- (Rupees Sixty Three Thousand Only)	29.06.2026 @ 02:00 PM	26.06.2026, Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071
	Details of Secured Assets: All the piece and parcel of the Property bearing No.86/12, situated at Mothakadahalli Village, Nandagudi Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Presently comes under the limits of Shivanapura Gram Panchayath, and **Bounded by the: East by:** House of Akkayyamma, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Road, **South by:** House of Sujendra. Measuring 30ft x 40 feet. Total 1200 Sq.ft.									

The properties are being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** & **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and the E-Auction will be conducted **'On Line'.** The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider **M/s. Auctionbazaar.com** at the web portal **contact@auctionbazaar.com, support@auctionbazaar.com, eauctions@auctionbazaar.com.** For more information and For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact **M/s. Auctionbazaar.com; Contact Auctionbazaar Contact Number: 8370969696/ 7997043999. Email id: contact@auctionbazaar.com, support@auctionbazaar.com.** For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and any for any query relating to property please contact **Jana Small Finance Bank authorized officers Mr. Umesh (Mob. No.8050149617), Mr. Kaushik B (Mob. No.7019949040) & Mr. Ranjan Naik (Mob. No.6362952653).** To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named Borrowers/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 23.05.2026, Place: Bangalore Rural | Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client Murali K absolute owner in possession of the immovable property bearing No.19, situated in Bangalore South Taluk, Kengeri Hobli K Golahalli Grama Panchayat, Tagachaguppe Grama Khata No.51, measuring East to West: 40 feet North to south: 30 feet, totally measuring 1200 square feet and bounded on the East by: Road, West by: Private property North by: My belonging, south by: 20 feet Road.

My Client has lost the original property document i.e. Sale Deed Registered Doc. No. 10723/2015-16 dated 10.02.2016 Registered in office of the Sub-Register, Jayanagar (Kengeri) Bangalore. The said property is in possession of Murali K is the absolute owner and free from all encumbrances.

My client had lost the above mentioned Sale Deed, inspite of several efforts the original deed is not found and he has lodged the Police Complaint through online dated 19.05.2026. Lost Report No. 2211494/2026. If any person found or anyone having any claim or interest over the said property, he/she required to forward their claims along with the relevant documents to us within 7 days. If we do not receive any claim from any person within 7 days, it will be strictly presumed that this property is absolutely free from any claim or encumbrance and no one has any claim over this property and if any one found the above deed kindly contact below mentioned if anyone found misusing the said document, is punishable under the law.

Date: 23.05.2026 Place: Bangalore
Sd/- CHANDRA SHEKAR.T
Advocate, No. 27, II Floor, 1st Main Road, Chandra Shekar Complex, Gandhinagara, Bangalore: 560 009. Ph: 9886065242

Quick action and coordinated efforts by Panambur police helped save the life of a farmer from Hassan district who had arrived in Mangaluru in order to end his life jumping into the Phalguni River from Kulur Bridge. The farmer had left his home without informing his family members. He was reportedly facing health issues and minor financial difficulties, police said

Leopard that killed boy near MM Hills captured

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

Leopard which killed a 10-year-old boy in MM Hills has been captured | EXPRESS

A leopard that had attacked and killed a 10-year-old boy during a pilgrimage to Nagamale near the Male Mahadeshwara Hills has finally been captured by the forest department after a 14-day operation. The officials confirmed that the leopard was trapped in a cage installed in a strategic position. Following the tragic incident, a temporary ban was imposed on trekking and padayatra routes leading to Nagamale.

Multiple cages were placed in and around the region, surveillance was intensified, and additional personnel were deployed to track and capture the animal. The animal had also reportedly attacked and killed livestock in nearby areas over the past few days. Despite extensive efforts, the leopard managed to evade capture for nearly two weeks.

The deceased boy, Harshith (10), was a resident of Laggere in Bengaluru. He had visited the Male Mahadeshwara temple along with his family on May 9. After offering prayers at the temple, the family stayed overnight in the area. On May 10, Harshith was walking with his family towards Nagamale for darshan when the leopard suddenly attacked him and dragged him into the forest. Around 30 minutes later, the boy's body was discovered between rocks inside the forest area.

EXPRESS READ

Engg student hangs self from tree near hostel

CHINTHAMANI: A second year Electronics and Communication Engineering student of the Visvesvaraya Technical College ended his life by hanging from a tree behind his hostel in Chinnasandra of Chinthamani taluk on Saturday night. Rakesh, a resident of Hebbal in Mysuru, was staying at the BCM Hostel. District Minister Dr M C Sudhakar rushed to the spot and the hospital, and collected the data regarding the incident from Rakesh's classmates and police officials. He said a detailed investigation has been ordered into the matter. He expressed regret that the exact reason behind the extreme step by the student was not yet known, as Rakesh had reportedly not shared his depression or mental stress with anyone. Appealing to students, Sudhakar urged them to openly discuss their problems with parents, friends, or counsellors and seek appropriate solutions. **ENS**

Nabin slams Cong govt for 3-yr 'misrule'

Draws parallels with TN, says Cong failures alone won't bring victory

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BJP national president Nitin Nabin visits the Kadu Malleshwara Temple in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

> **This government has no connection with people's interests. Prepare a constituency-wise "chargesheet" of Congress failures and maintain close contact with booth-level workers and fight on people-centric issues** — Nitin Nabin, BJP national president

BJP national president Nitin Nabin continued his high-profile visit to Karnataka on Sunday, combining organisational meetings with a blistering attack on the Congress government. He accused the government of betraying public trust, rampant corruption and turning the state into a "Delhi ATM" for the party high command.

Nabin said Congress has let down Karnataka's people over the past three years through internal fights, policy paralysis and governance failure. "This government has no connection with people's interests," he charged.

He slammed rising prices, deteriorating law and order, youth despair, and a surge in women's missing cases, while mocking the much-hyped "guarantee" schemes as mere propaganda that offer no real relief to citizens. Nabin warned Karnataka BJP workers against complacency. Drawing a parallels with Tamil Nadu, he said Congress' failures alone will not bring victory. He directed leaders to prepare a constituency-wise "chargesheet" of Congress failures, maintain close contact with booth-level workers and the public, and fight on people-centric issues.

Nabin's day began around 9 am with him visiting senior BJP leader BS Yediyurappa for breakfast at his Dhavalagiri residence in Dollars Colony. State BJP president BY Vijayendra accompanied him for the rest of the engagements.

Nabin offered prayers at the Kadu Malleshwara Swamy Temple in Malleswaram. He later reached the state BJP headquarters, Jagannath Bhavan, where he was given a grand welcome by party office-bearers.

He held a meeting with MPs, MLAs, MLCs, state office-bearers, district presidents and other team members. He later chaired the party core committee meeting to review the party's preparedness. In the evening, he interacted with the SIR state BJP team.

Senior leaders present across the events included Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, national general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Dr Radhamohan Das Agrawal, Leader of Opposition R Ashok, former CMs DV Sadananda Gowda and Jagadish Shettar, former minister B Sriramulu, MP Govind Karjol and MLC CT Ravi.

Later briefing the media, Ravi said Nabin gave clear instructions to expose Congress' three-year misrule, work as a united team, and build emotional bonds with workers and voters.

Will Vijayendra lead BJP in K'taka till 2028?

BANSY KALAPPA @ BENGALURU

NEWLY appointed BJP national president Nitin Nabin arrived in Karnataka on Sunday — his first visit to the state after assuming office — carrying the weight of decisions that could decide the party's fate in the 2028 Assembly election. At the centre of these decisions is party state president BY Vijayendra — son of party strongman BS Yediyurappa — whose term ends in November.

"Vijayendra is not just a leader, he is the symbol of a powerful community's aspirations. The Lingayats, who have stood as the backbone of BJP in Karnataka, see their honour and future tied to his continuation as party president," said a source. The participation of Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Yediyurappa's felicitation is being interpreted as Modi-Shah leadership's affection towards the Yediyurappa family.

"If they wanted to sideline the family, would they show such warmth? This breakfast feels like a quiet assurance that the party remembers and honours those who built it," said a senior party leader. The BJP core committee meeting at the party office had Nabin flanked by Yediyurappa and Vijayendra on either side. Yet, critics within the party accuse Vijayendra of factionalism, "adjustment politics" by maintaining friendly ties with Congress leaders and failing to mount a fierce challenge against the government. These whispers of disappointment have reached Delhi, testing the high command's balancing act between community sentiments.

For countless Yediyurappa loyalists in the party, easing his son out so soon stirs deep unease and a sense of betrayal. "BSY has given his entire life to this party. He has built it with his blood, sweat, and tears. How can we forget that legacy," asked a party worker. Union minister Pralhad Joshi or party general secretary BL Santhosh are seen as unlikely choices to replace Vijayendra because of community dynamics. Other Lingayat faces — V Somanna, Jagadish Shettar, Basavaraj Bommai or Arvind Bellad -- are being weighed, but none carry the same emotional and electoral connect as the Yediyurappa name.

Santhosh, long viewed as a powerful organisational counterbalance to Yediyurappa, has reportedly been asked to step back from active manoeuvring in the state. The breakfast meeting between Nabin and Yediyurappa may hold the first clues. But the final decision may only be known in November. The leadership is also expected to take into consideration the next CM face in Karnataka for the 2028 polls as their alliance partner JDS has a readymade CM face in HD Kumaraswamy.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby informed that my client **Mrs. RESHMA B ANIL** W/o Mr. Anil Kumar. T, intends to purchase the scheduled property Item No.I, II and III from (1) **Mr. VISHWANATH GANAPATHI HEGDE** S/o Mr. Ganapathi Ramakrishna Hegde, the Immovable residential Site House Property bearing No. **43**, Panchayat Katha No. 688, formed in converted Survey Nos. 291/3, 291/4 and 296/3, Situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 50 ft and North to South 40 ft in all totally measuring 2000 Sq.ft., which is more fully described in the schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the **"SCHEDULE PROPERTY Item No.I "**, (2) **Mr. VIRUPAX GAONKAR** S/o Shri. Mahabaleshwar Gaonka and **Mrs. PREETHI HEGDE** W/o Shri. Virupax Gaonkar, the Immovable residential Site Property bearing No. **44 and 45**, Panchayat Katha No. 688, formed in converted Survey Nos. 291/3, 291/4 and 296/3, Situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 50 ft and North to South 40 ft in all totally measuring 2000 Sq.ft.,, which is more fully described in the schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the **"SCHEDULE PROPERTY Item No.II "**, (3) **Mr. SURESH GANAPATHI BHAT** S/o S/o Mr. Ganapathi Venkataramana Bhat, the Immovable residential Site House Property bearing No. **46**, Panchayat Katha No. 688, formed in converted Survey Nos. 291/3, 291/4 and 296/3, Situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 50 ft and North to South 40 ft in all totally measuring 2000 Sq.ft., which is more fully described in the schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the **"SCHEDULE PROPERTY Item No.III "**, The above-named persons have represented that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property Item No.I, II and III mentioned below.

Any person / institution having any right, title, claim or interest of any nature in the Schedule Property in Item No.I, II and III or any objections of any manner whatsoever to the above sale transaction between my client and aforesaid owners, are hereby called upon to notify the undersigned and file their objections/claims along-with supporting documents within 10 days from the date of publication of this Notice at the address mentioned below. If no such claim is received, it would be deemed that the above mentioned owners have a clear and marketable title to the schedule property in Item No.I, II and III specified below and that others do not have any claim over the same and /or claims if any will be deemed to have been waived. Any claims raised thereafter shall not be entertained nor binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No.I: All that piece and parcel of the Immovable residential Site House Property bearing No. 43, Panchayat Katha No. 688, formed in converted Survey Nos. 291/3, 291/4 and 296/3, Situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 50 ft and North to South 40 ft in all totally measuring 2000 Sq.ft., **BBMP e-PID No.5391744688, Ward No.192 (Begur)** together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever underneath or above the surface and bounded on : - East by : Road, West by: Site bearing No. 61 and 62, North by : Site bearing No. 42, South by : Site bearing No. 44 and 45,

Item No.II: All that piece and parcel of the Immovable residential Site Property bearing No. 44 and 45, Panchayat Katha No. 688, formed in converted Survey Nos. 291/3, 291/4 and 296/3, Situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 50 ft and North to South 40 ft in all totally measuring 2000 Sq.ft., **BBMP e-PID No.5248696052, Ward No.192 (Begur)** together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever underneath or above the surface and bounded on : - East by : Road, West by : Site bearing No. 60 and 61, North by : Site bearing No. 43; South by : Site bearing No. 46,

Item No.III: All that piece and parcel of the Immovable residential Site House Property bearing No. 46, Panchayat Katha No. 688, formed in converted Survey Nos. 291/3, 291/4 and 296/3, Situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 50 ft and North to South 40 ft in all totally measuring 2000 Sq.ft., **BBMP e-PID No.3659058706, Ward No.192 (Begur)** together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever underneath or above the surface and bounded on : - East by : Road, West by : Site bearing No. 59 and 60, North by : Site bearing No. 44 and 45; South by : Site bearing No. 47,

SHIVAPRASAD PROPERTY LAW SERVICES LLP
(LLP No.AAL - 9694)
The above Partnership is registered with Limited Liability (LLP)
Advocates, Office at No.99, 1st Floor, 1st Main Road, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore - 560020, Ph; 080-23561811, (M) 9844034104 **(Timings: 11.00 AM till 05.00 P.M)**

DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE
Directorate of Horticulture, Biocentre, Hulimavu, Bengaluru - 560076

No:DH/BT/SADH/PN/CW-1/08/2026-27 Date: 25.05.2026
DH:BTCHOBTCA:10:26:BB-DH

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(only through K.P.P Portal, under two cover system)

Tenders are invited for Transportation of Horticulture Produces to districts and taluk of Karnataka for the year 2026-27 and 2027-2028 under the development of departmental laboratories and KSHDA Revolving fund scheme. The tender documents may be obtained by logging on to as per KTPP act 1999 and 2000 through K.P.P.P- Procurement website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from **25.05.2026** to **24.06.2026** as per KTPP act 1999 and 2000.

Name of Particulars	Approximate Cost (Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs.in Lakhs)
Transportation of Horticulture Produces to districts and taluks of Karnataka.	20.00	0.50
Total Approximate Cost Rs.	**20.00**	**0.50**

Tender Reference: DH/BT/SADH/PN/CW-1/08/2026-27 Dt:25.05.2026.

1) Last date and time for uploading documents for tender participation: **24.06.2026, 5:00 pm.** (2) Date and time of opening technical bid: **29.06.2026, 11:00 am.** (3) Date and time of opening commercial bid: **01.07.2026, 11:00 am.** (4) Communication address: O/o Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Plant Nutrition), Biocentre, Hulimavu, Bengaluru-560 076. Ph: 080-26582775/26584904.

Sd/-
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Plant Nutrition)

DIPR/CP/781/CCL/2026-27

Government of India Ministry of Finance Department of Financial Services
DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I, Karnataka,
4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560001.

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961, as amended

RC/550/2025 Dated : 27-03-2026

M/s. CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
- Vs -
M/s. KRISHNA CEMENTS BLOCK AND CEMENTS & OTHERS

(CH 1) **M/s. City Union Bank Ltd., Indira Nagar Branch,** No.194, Ground Floor, 7th Cross, Off. CMH Road (Opp. G.K. Vale), Indira Nagar, I Stage, Bengaluru - 560038, Karnataka **... Applicant Bank / Certificate Holder**

Versus

To

(CD 1) **M/s. Krishna Cement Blocks and Cements,** Rep. by its Proprietor : Sri K. Ramadas, Doing Business at : No.770/2, Gerehalli, Hosakerehalli Main Road, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru - 560085, Karnataka.

(CD 2) **Smt. K. Bhanupriya,** W/o. K. Ramadas, No.334/1, 2nd Floor, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Bengaluru - 560085, Karnataka.

(CD 3) **Sri. K. Ramadas,** S/o. Munirathnam, No.334/1, 2nd Floor, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Bengaluru - 560085, Karnataka.
Also at : Site No.3, V.P. Katha No.279, Present BBMP Katha No.279/564/3, Kothnur Village, Httreali, Hosli, Bengaluru - 560078, Karnataka.
... Defendants / Certificate Debtors

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bengaluru (DRT - I) in OA/88/2022 an Amount of **Rs.70,88,715/- (Rupees Seventy Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifteen only),** with pendente lite and future interest @ **10%** p.a. along with Cost of w.e.f. **17-01-2022** till realization and Costs of **Rs. 1,72,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Seventy Two Thousand only)** has become due against you (Jointly and severally / Fully / Limited).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within **15 days** of the receipts of the Notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993.
3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on **24-08-2026** at **10.30 a.m.** for further proceedings.
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay :
   (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
   (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this Notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on the date of : **27-03-2026.**

(P.H. Hemanth Kumar, IRS)
Recovery Officer-II, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, Bengaluru.

Government of India Ministry of Finance Department of Financial Services
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I, Karnataka,
4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560001.

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961, as amended

RC/298/2024 Dated : 11-12-2024

M/s. CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
- Vs -
M/s. UDAYA and Co. & OTHERS

(CH 1) **M/s. City Union Bank Ltd., Indira Nagar Branch,** No.194, Ground Floor, 7th Cross, Off. CMH Road (Opp. G.K. Vale), Indira Nagar, I Stage, Bengaluru - 560038, Karnataka. **... Applicant Bank / Certificate Holder**

Versus

To

(CD 1) **M/s. Udaya & Co,** Represented by its Proprietor : Smt. Devi P., W/o.Sri Suresh Kumar P., R/at : No.15, Ground Floor, 1st Floor, 1st Stage, J.C.Road, Bangalore - 560027, Karnataka.
Also at : No.800, 14th Cross, JP Nagar, 1st Phase, Bangalore, Karnataka.

(CD 2) **Mr. P. Suresh Kumar,** S/o. P. Govind Chetty, No.800, 14th Cross, J.P. Nagar, 1st Phase, Bangalore - 560027, Karnataka.
Also at : A. Venkatapuram, Agaramangalam, Chittoor - 517125, Andhra Pradesh.

(CD 3) **Mrs. P. Devi,** Prop. Dhanalakshmi Construction, W/o. P. Suresh Kumar, P.No.800, 14th Cross, J.P. Nagar, 1st Phase, Bangalore - 560027, Karnataka.
Also at : D.No.17-4-40, Sheela Complex, Sundarayyar Street, Chittoor - 517001. Andhra Pradesh. **... Defendants / Certificate Debtors**

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bengaluru (DRT - I) in OA/180/2022 an Amount of **Rs.1,20,91,334/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Lakh Ninety One Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty Four only),** along with Cost and future interest @ **12.50%** p.a. compound Intereset Monthly w.e.f. **25-01-2022** till realization and Costs of **Rs. 1,89,505/- (Rupees One Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Five Hundred and Five only)** has become due against you (Jointly and severally / Fully / Limited).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within **15 days** of the receipts of the Notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules thereunder.
3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on **17-07-2026** at **10.30 a.m.** for further proceedings.
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay :
   (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
   (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this Notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on the date of : **11-12-2024.**

(P.H. Hemanth Kumar, IRS)
Recovery Officer-II, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, Bengaluru.

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK (A Scheduled Commercial Bank) | **Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.**

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non-performing Asset,** whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) M/s. MTS Service Center, Prop. Mr. Mohith Babu T R, S/o. Thimmariahappa Ramadas, 2) Mr. Mohith Babu T R, S/o. Thimmariahappa Ramadas, Prop. M/s. MTS Service Center, 3) Mr. Ashwini D, W/o. Mohith Babu T R	Loan Account No. 45389440000042 45389410000800 Loan Amount: Rs.12,00,000/- Rs.54,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Residential property bearing Site No.15, Assessment No.04, measuring East to West 30 ft, North to South 40 ft, in all measuring 1200 Sq.ft, along with 4 Square AC Sheet house as Constructed, situated at Nagawara Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now assigned as No.189, HBR 5th Block, HBR 1st Stage, Nagawara Bangalore now comes under the Jurisdiction of BBMP Limits, Ward No.24 Bangalore and **Bounded on: East by:** Site No.14, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Old Site No.12, New Site No.190, **South by:** Old Site No.16, New Site No.188. Measuring East to West 30 ft, North to South 40 ft, in all measuring 1200 Sq.ft.	Date of NPA: 01-02-2026 Demand Notice Date: 22.05.2026	Rs.10,32,279.37 (Rupees Ten Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Nine and Thirty Seven Paisa Only) due as on 20-05-2026 and interest thereon
2	1) Mr. Ambaray Nippani, S/o. Sharanappa Pujari, 2) Mrs. Saraswati Nippani, W/o. Sharanappa Pujari	Loan Account No. 45459630001718 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Corporation No.11-1041/18/44, measuring 1440 Sq.ft. having plinth area of 100 Sq.ft. situated at Shivajinagar Taluk and District and **Bounded by as under: East by:** 20' CC Road, **West by:** 30' wide Road, **North by:** Private Property, **South by:** Private Property.	Date of NPA: 04-05-2026 Demand Notice Date: 22.05.2026	Rs.4,25,480.02 (Rupees Four Lakhs Twenty Five Thousand Four Hundred Eighty and Two Paisa Only) aue as on 20-05-2026
3	1) Mr. Lokesh, S/o. Ranlaiah, 2) Mrs. Rajamma, W/o. Rama Bovi	Loan Account No. 47050430001247 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the PID No. 152900200900100114, Khaneshmari No.124/731/92, measuring East to West 9.144 meter, and North to South 20.7264 meter, situated at Kodipura Village, Kodihalli Grama Panchayath, Kodihallihobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East:** Property of Krishnappa, **West:** Property belongs to Prema, **North:** Panchayath Road, **South:** Land belongs to Gopalachari.	Date of NPA: 03-04-2026 Demand Notice Date: 22.05.2026	Rs.4,83,054.68 (Rupees Four Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Fifty Four and Sixty Eight Paisa Only) due as on 20-05-2025
4	1) Mr. Munikempaiah T M, S/o. Seegalamma, 2) Mrs Savithramma, W/o. Munikempaiah T M, 3) Mahesh TM, S/o. Munikempaiah T M	Loan Account No. 32909630000559 32909410000408 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- Rs.1,50,000/-	**Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing No.45/52A, E-Katha ID No.150300401900120077, situated at Thimmasandra Village, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Presently comes under the limits of Lakkondahalli Village Panchayat and **Bounded on the: East by:** Property belongs to Pillamma, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Property belongs to Nagaveni, **South by:** Property belongs to Bidiganahalli Muniyappa. Measuring East to west 10.97 Mtr and North to South 9.40, in all measuring 103.11 Sq.mtrs.	Date of NPA: 22.05.2026 Demand Notice Date: 04-05-2026	Rs.5,77,149.27 (Rupees Five Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand One Hundred Forty Nine and Twenty Seven Paisa Only) due as on 20-05-2026

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

Date: 23.05.2026, Place: Bangalore & Bangalore Rural **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

pnb Housing Finance Limited Ghar Ki Baat

Regd. Office:- 9th Floor, Antrakish Bhavan, 22, K G Marg, New Delhi-110001. Ph: 011-23357171, 23357172, 23705414,
Web: www.pnbhousing.com; Branch Address : No. 40, Jodh Tower 3rd Floor, 27th Cross, 5th Main Road, Jayanagar, 4th Block, Bangalore 560 011.

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **PNB Housing Finance Ltd.** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & in compliance of Rule 8(1) of Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice/s on the date mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/date of receipt of the said notice/s. The borrower/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/ s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each account. The borrower/s in par- ticular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of **PNB Housing Finance Ltd.**, for the amount and interest thereon as per loan agreement. The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets

S. No	Loan A/c No(s)	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice	Amount Outstanding	Date of Possession Taken	Description of the Property/ies mortgaged
1	HOU/ BAN/ 0217/ 354429	Mr. T.S Shivanna and Mrs. Thejavathi B	08/10/ 2025	Rs. 1,21,29,763/- (Rupees One Core Twenty One Lakhs Twenty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Three Only) due as on 08-10-2025	19-05-2026 (Symbolic Possession)	"SCHEDULE ""A"" PROPERTY"ITEM NO.I:"All that piece and parcel of Residential Converted Land Bearing Sy.No.73/5, measuring 1 Acre 17 Guntas (converted vide Official Memorandum dated6/ 7/2013, bearing No.ALN(EVH)SR/443/2012-13, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District Bangalore), situated at Balagere Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore and bounded as:"East by : Remaining portion of Sy.No.73/5;"West by : Remaining portion of Sy.No.73/ 5;"North by : Land bearing Sy.No.73/4;"South by : Land bearing Sy.No.73/6." "ITEM NO.II:""All that piece and parcel of Residential Converted Land Bearing Sy.No.73/6, measuring 21 Guntas (converted vide Official Memorandum dated 6/7/2013, bearing No. ALN(EVH)SR/443/2012-13, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District Bangalore), situated at Balagere Village, VarthurHobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore and bounded as:"East by : Remaining portion of Sy.No.73/6;"West by : Remaining portion of Sy.No.73/6;"North by : Land bearing Sy.No.73/5;"South by : Road. ""COMPOSITE SCHEDULE PROPERTY""All that piece and parcel of Residential Converted Land Bearing Sy.No.73/5, measuring1 Acre 17 glnalas and Residential Converted Land Bearing Sy.No.73/6, measuring21 Guntas, both the properties totally measuring 1 Acre 38 Guntas, (converted vide Official Memorandum dated 6/7/2013, bearing No .ALN(EVH) SR/ 443 / 2012-13, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore DistrictBangalore), Presently Bruhat Bangalore MahanagaraPalike Katha No.359/73/5/73/6/17, situated at Balagere Village, VarthurHobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore and bounded as:"East by : Remaining portion of Sy.No.73/5 and 73/6;"West by : Remaining portion of Sy.No.73/5 and 73/6;"North by : Land bearing Sy.No.73/4;"South by : Road; ""SCHEDULE ""B"" PROPERTY"297 Sq.feet undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule A Property"proportionate to the Schedule C Property. """"SCHEDULE ""C"" PROPERTY""Residential Apartment bearing No.304, Third Floor, admeasuring a super built area of 1108 Square Feet consisting of 2 Bedrooms, in the Multistoried Residential Apartment Building known as ""SRI KRISHNA EXCEL STONE"", constructed over the Schedule ""A"" Property inclusive of proportionate share in the common areas such as passage, lobbies, lift, staircase and other areas of common area, (including half portion in depth of the joints between the Ceiling of the Apartment and floors of the apartment above it. Internal and external walls between such levels) and the building is of RCC roofing as per specification appended hereto with separate electricity, common water and sanitation, including all rights, title, interest, privileges, appurtenances, together with a car/scooter parking slot to be earmarked and confirmed at the time of registration of the Sale Deed."

Date:19.05.2026, Place:Bangalore **Sd/- Authorised Officer, PNB Housing Finance Limited**

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Bengaluru South City Corporation, in association with Jayanagar Canine Squad, and Shivashakti Development Trust, conducted 'Dog Adoption and Free Vaccination Camp' on Sunday, where 10 puppies and one kitten found new homes

Truce in sight? AIADMK's rival groups close in on amicable end

Nearly all legislators in C Ve Shanmugam faction agree to return, says party functionary

T MURUGANANDHAM @ Chennai

EPS SP Velumani

WITH the 15-day period for condoning the action of the 25 AIADMK MLAs who defied the party whip and voted in support of the TVK government on May 13 set to expire on May 27, both groups may be heading towards an amicable resolution, as the stakes for both groups have gone up.

Legal experts have already clarified that only the party leader can choose the office-bearers of the legislative party, and that the act of 25 AIADMK MLAs who supported the TVK government has incurred disqualification. "Under the anti-defection law, an MLA who votes against the party whip may avoid disqualification if the party formally condones the breach within 15 days, and for that, the MLA should first apologise to the party leadership. This will be followed by a letter to be submitted before the Assembly speaker, as AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami has already sought the disqualification of the 25 MLAs," a functionary close to Palaniswami told *TNIE*.

Another functionary said, "Almost all MLAs in the rival group have agreed to come back. Since many of them have gone to their respective constituencies to thank the people for electing them, they may meet Palaniswami in the coming days."

Regarding the speculation that Palaniswami was not prepared to 'condone' the acts of certain MLAs in the rival group for having "exceeded their limits", the functionary said, "We expect everything to come to a peaceful conclusion soon." There is also a view that if the Palaniswami camp presses for the disqualification of the 25 rebel MLAs, or even a section of them, it could ultimately work in favour of the TVK government, as any reduction in the effective strength of the Assembly would lower the number required to prove a majority.

TVK sources said, "There is no time frame for the speaker to dispose the representations seeking disqualification of MLAs belonging to the rival faction. As such, the speaker will take time to consider the legal aspects elaborately and other issues relating to the dispute." Reinstating district secretaries removed from their posts and withdrawing representations made by both groups before the speaker and the petition filed by the rival faction before the ECI are among the issues being considered for an amicable resolution of the feud.

SP Velumani, one of the leaders of the rival group, said two days ago that there is no dispute and Palaniswami continues to be the general secretary of the party, signalling a possible thaw in the AIADMK's intra-party feud. However, Velumani reiterated the demand for convening the general council meeting at the earliest.Leaders of the rival faction could not be contacted on Sunday for their comments about their next move.

On May 11, the Palaniswami faction first approached the pro-tem speaker by submitting the list of office-bearers for AIADMK legislature party. Within a few hours, the rival group led by C Ve Shanmugam also made similar claims.

BHATKAL DROWNING

K'TAKA CM ANNOUNCES ₹5L EX-GRATIA, MODI ₹2L

People gather at the Bhatkal Government Hospital mortuary after hearing about the drowning at Shirali Tattehakklu on Sunday | EXPRESS

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS @ Karwar

EXPRESSING shock over the Bhatkal estuary tragedy, the Karnataka government has announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the next of kin of each of the deceased. Similarly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolence and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from the Prime Minister National Relief Fund.

Ten people drowned in the estuary at Padushirali in Bhatkal on Sunday.

Taking to social media platform X, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said, "Hearing the news that eight members of the family who had gone to collect black clams on Thattehakklu beach near Bhatkal in Uttara Kannada district drowned in the water and lost their lives has left me deeply distressed. I pray that the departed souls find eternal peace. This is an extremely tragic incident. On humanitarian grounds, the State Government will provide a compensation of Rs 5 lakh each to the families of those who perished in the disaster".

"Deeply pained to hear about a mishap in Karwar district, Karnataka. My condolence to those who have lost their loved ones. May the injured recover fast," PM Modi posted on social media, announcing an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh to the families of each of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to each injured persons.

President Droupadi Murmu, too, condoled the death saying, "The news of the tragic loss of lives in an accident in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka is distressing. I extend my deepest condolences to those who lost their loved ones. I pray for speedy recovery of the injured," she posted on X.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, extending condolence to the families of the deceased said, "The district Incharge Minister Mankal Vaidya has provided information regarding the tragedy and I have instructed him to go to the spot. Necessary rescue operations and appropriate measures have already been taken. I pray that the departed souls find peace and their families find the strength to bear this sorrow.

It's surprising as all victims experts: Locals

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

THE bodies of Nagaratna Parameshwar Naik and Manjamma Govida Naik were recovered in the evening. Madhev Veerappa Naik is still missing. Two injured – Nagaratna Eshwar Naik and Madhevi Naik – have been shifted to Manipal Hospital.

All related to each other

The police said all the 13 were related and hailed from Sharadahole Padushirali. When the level started rising, locals called out to them to come out of waters, but they could not.

Mystery to villagers

The locals and fishermen were not sure what happened. "If there is a rise in water level, it will not be sudden. Since the deceased were experienced, they would have understood the situation and would be cautious," they added. Those who drowned may not have known the depth of water and anticipated the increase in water levels, they said. Venkatapura is a rivulet that takes birth in Bhatkal taluk and joins the sea after traversing 100 km. It merges with the Arabian Sea at Shirali.

Bivalve and women

Normally, it is the women who collect bivalves or black clams that are in great demand for nutritional value. Tattehakklu estuary is rich in bivalves.

ADGP altered Youth Cong case diary, says report

SHAN A S @T'Puram

AMID the SIT probe into the attack on Youth Congress workers during the Nava Kerala Sadas, a report by the Crime Branch SP has pointed fingers at ADGP M R Ajith Kumar, alleging that he had intervened to alter the case diary and investigation report prepared earlier.

The interim report prepared by Crime Branch SP A P Shoukathali, who is heading the special investigation team probing the 2023 incident, has been filed before state police chief Ravada A Chandrasekhar. The government is awaiting Chandrasekhar's feedback to decide the next course of action. As per the interim report, Ajith Kumar, the then Law & Order ADGP, prompted Crime Branch DySP Sunil Raj, who had probed the alleged attack on YC workers by then Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's security guards on December 15, 2023, to alter the documents and final report. The DySP's report had originally mentioned the availability of video recordings depicting police excesses. It was removed from the final report, allegedly at the behest of Ajith Kumar after summoning Sunil to Thiruvananthapuram in 2024.

As per sources, Shoukathali recorded Sunil's statement, which he then included in interim report. They said after perusing Shoukathali's report, Chandrasekhar will file it before the government within two days.

'Girl's body cremated sans my consent'

S SENTHIL KUMAR @ Coimbatore

THE mother of the 10-year-old minor girl, who was sexually assaulted and murdered near Sulur in Coimbatore district, alleged that her husband's family cremated her daughter's body without her consent and without letting her see it.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday, the mother said that earlier she had refused to sign for receiving the body from the hospital until justice was ensured.

"However, after obtaining my husband's signature, the body was immediately handed over to my husband's family following the autopsy. They did not show me the body and instead took it through the backdoor of the ESI Hospital in the city and placed it in an ambulance. When we tried to follow them, the ambulance drove away. Later, we travelled to our native place in Salem, but before that they had cremated her," she alleged.

The mother appealed to the police to take action against her husband and his family members for not letting her see her daughter one last time.

On the criticism over allegedly consuming alcohol and falling asleep when the girl went missing, she said, "On that day, I drank the cool drink that was kept near the fridge by my husband. It was laced with alcohol. But I was not aware of it. After consuming it, I lost consciousness."

She requested not to spread slander against her in connection with this matter.

CATCHING WAVES

Visitors at the Marina Beach in Chennai plunging into the waves to escape the soaring heat on a hot Sunday | P JAWAHAR

Data centres use 25m litres of water per MW

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ACCORDING to global statistics, around 25 million litres of water per megawatt on average is consumed every year by AI data centres. Besides, they also use high amounts of electricity constantly that deplete natural resources, threatening the environment.

Akshay Heblikar, Director, Eco-Watch, said AI data centres require 24x7 supply of electricity and water to cool the systems. Though 10% of electronic waste produced by these data centres can be recycled, it takes more natural resources to treat them for further use. He urged the government to spread awareness about these issues and enact a policy where only certain sectors that absolutely require AI be allowed to use them.

Mithun Hanumesh, Head of the Centre of Excellence in Nature-Based Solutions at Alliance University, said Bengaluru's rapidly growing data centre ecosystem is adding pressure on an already water-stressed city. Citing recent estimates and industry studies, he noted that data centres may collectively consume up to 20 million litres of water per day for cooling and associated operations, depending on their size, cooling technology, climatic conditions and energy demand. He observed that many modern data centres are increasingly being located in coastal regions, colder climates and areas with access to renewable energy to improve cooling efficiency and manage significant heat generated by these centres.

An AI expert told TNIE that environmental impacts should be considered as AI includes generating fast outputs to prompts, image rendering, decision-making, voice enhancement and so on. Batteries, servers and satellites that require apt outer space infrastructure (scrap waste) that help power these data centres are non-biodegradable material which have an extinction period and should be discarded after use.

IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge had earlier said that to generate one megawatt of power, Rs 70 crore is required. Just five prompts to ChatGPT require up to 500ml of water, but with millions using AI prompts, the massive water consumption can be worrying. Kharge said there is a policy that has existed for the last three years, but the department is thinking of bringing in a sustainable data centre policy.

Manjula N, Secretary, Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T, said these data centres require an acre of land per megawatt construction, but vertical construction is being looked into currently. "The upcoming policy on data centres will ensure companies to efficiently use water and power while also carefully looking into other environmental impacts like heat emissions. Data centres are inevitable as they are required for computation. Though the upcoming policy will welcome AI data centres, they will focus on encouraging sustainable environment-friendly practices," she added.

WHAT IS A DATA CENTRE?

A data centre is a specialised facility with vast computational power to train and run artificial intelligence and machine learning models that are optimised for quick data processing and analysis

HOW MUCH POWER IS CONSUMED BY DATA CENTRES

If a data centre is operating at full 1 MW (1,000 kW), this means it consumes 1,000 units of electricity every hour (1 unit = 1 kilowatt per hour or kWh). So, the daily consumption would be 24,000 units (1,000 kWh × 24 hours = 24,000 kWh/day)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby notified/informed by this public notice that I, Mr. K. Nagaseshendra Babu, S/o. Late. K. Subbarayudu, residing at No. A6 396, 4th "A" Main, 2nd Stage, 3rd Phase, BDA Domlur, Bengaluru-560071, have lost/misplaced the Original Allotment letter dated 12th Fbruary 1986, bearing No. 483/1985-86, issued by the Bengaluru Development Authority, for allotting the property bearing No. A/36, new Municipal No. A6/396, in first floor, having latest super built-up area of 36.8 Sq. Meters on the first floor & 55.7 Sq. Meters on the second floor, together with ½ * 46.72 Sq. Meters, of undivided share, right, title, interest & ownership in the land measuring East to West 3.20 Meters & North to South 7.30 Meters, Situated at No. A6 396, 4th "A" Main, 2nd Stage, 3rd Phase, BDA Domlur, Bengaluru-560071 and bounded on the; East by: House No. A/397, West by: House No. A/395, North by: Conservancy and South by: Road. And have also lodged a Police Complaint dated 18th May 2026, bearing No. 2209404/2026, to this effect with the Inspector of Police Bengaluru. Any finder of the above Original Allotment Letter, may kindly be handed over to me at my address No. A6 396, 4th "A" Main, 2nd Stage, 3rd Phase, BDA Domlur, Bengaluru-560071,

e-mail: nsbabu.jll@gmail.com
Phone No: 8971540008

IN THE COURT OF XIX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-18)
P & SC No. 218/2026

BETWEEN: Smt. Balkhis Begum, D/o., Late Mohammed Azmathulla Khan, W/o. Syed Raqeeb Ahmed, aged 47 years, Occ: Household Work, R/o. No.69/4, St. Johns Church Road, Santhosh Manor Apartment, Southern Portion of Church Road, P.O Fraser Town, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560005 ... **PETITIONER**

AND: NIL ... RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS the above named petitioner has filed this petition under section 276 and 372 of Indian Succession Act for the grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the Petitioner, in respect of schedule properties mentioned below. The below mentioned schedule has held by Mohammed Hafeezulla Khan brother of petitioner herein who expired on 19-10-2024.

Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear before this court in person or by pleader duly instructed on **27-06-2026** at **11:00 A.M.** inform to show cause against the petitioner failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declared as Ex-parte.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

ITEM NO.1: (A) All that piece and parcel of the dry land property measuring 0.35 cents in full out of 0.47 acre with tax assessment of HA.0.14.0 in Survey No.195/3B.

(B) All that piece and parcel of the dry land property measuring 0.54 cents in full out of 0.74 acre with tax assessment of HA.0.14.0 in Survey No.195/4. The total measurement of dry land is 0.89 cent in full. That the aforesaid dry lands are situated at Kodipalli Village, Veppanapalli Sub-Registrar, Krishnagiri Registrar Office and Krishnagiri District.

ITEM No.2: All that the piece and parcel of Flat No.69/4, on the First Floor the building known as "SANTOSH MANOR" and constructed on the property bearing Municipal No.69, (old No.30, bifurcated as No.30/1), situated at St. John's Church Road, Bangalore-5600051, consisting of a living cum-dining room, Family room, 3 Bedroom with attached bathroom-cum-toilets, Kitchen, Store room and servant room with toilet as indicated in the plan hereto annexed to form a part and parcel of this deed measuring Super Built-up area of 1070 Sq. Ft. inclusive of proportionate share in the common area. All the walls, ceiling floor between two apartments shall belong to the owner of such apartments equally. The Purchaser shall own one car parking facility in the basement of the building.

Given under my hand seal of the court on this 18-04-2026.

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Petitioner
KAZI LAW ASSOCIATES
S.H. KAZI
Advocate & Legal Consultant
No.74/1, 1st Floor, HKP (Broadway) Road
Shivajinagar Bengaluru-560051.
Mob: 9740340201
Email: salim.kazi14@gamil.com

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified that my client **Sri.Ravi Reddy.R** is the sole and absolute owner of the schedule Property.

The Original (1)Sale deed dated 05.12.1997 Document No.10527/1997-98, (2) Sale deed on dated 29.05.1999 & Document No.1837/1999-2000, (3) Sale deed dated 12.09.2001, & Doc No.7449-2001-02, (4) Rectification deed dated 13.08.2007 Doc No.JPN-1-02521-2007-08, (5) Discharge deed dated 13.08.2008, Doc No.JPN-1-02731-2008-09, (6) MODTD deed dated 13.08.2009, Doc No.JPN-1-02732-2008-09 (6) Discharge deed on dated 01.09.2010 Doc No.JPN-1-04065-2010-11, (7) Equitable Mortgage deed dated 01.09.2010 Doc No.JPN-1-04068-2010-11, in respect of House list No.16, in Katha No.8/2, Situated at Chunchagatta Village, Now comes under BBMP area Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Measuring East to west 40ft, and North to South Eastern Side 14ft, and western Side 12ft, consisting of 10X5ft, along with building, is misplaced/lost by client. In this connection, a police complaint has been lodged on dated 23.05.2026 vide Acknowledgement of Police Complaint vide Lost Report No. **(1) 2218415/2026, (2) 2218417/2026, (3) 2218427/2026, (4)2218423/2026, (5) 2218443/2026, (6) 2218435/2026, (7) 2218440/2026, (8) 2218439/2026,**

Any Person finds the document may handover the same to the undersigned within 7 days from this day. If the said document is misused by anybody, it shall not be binding on our client and he/she shall not be binding on our client and he/she shall be doing so at him/their own costs and risks.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the House list No.16, in Katha No.8/2, Situated at Chunchagatta Village, Now comes under BBMP area Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Measuring East to west 40ft, and North to South Eastern Side 14ft, and western Side 12ft, consisting of 10X5ft, along with building, and bounded on:

East by : Site No.17
West by : Road
North by : Road
South by : Site No.15

Aswath B, Advocate
#36 (317/C), 9th A Main, 40th Cross,
5th Block, Jayanagara Bangalore -560041
Contact No : 9901944099
E-mail: aswath.bb@gmail.com

Your Guide to Spicy living
INDULGE Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Government of India Ministry of Finance
Department of Financial Services
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I, Karnataka,
4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560001.

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts & Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961, as amended

RC/468/2025 Dated : 21-10-2025

M/s. CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
- Vs -
Sri. A. SUBRAMANYAM NAINDU AND OTHERS

(CH 1) M/s. City Union Bank Ltd., Indira Nagar Branch, Rep. by its Branch Manager, Rep. by Its Authorized Officer, No.194, Ground Floor, 7th Cross, Off. CMH Road (Opp. G.K. Vale), Indira Nagar, I Stage, Bengaluru - 560038, Karnataka.
... Applicant Bank / Certificate Holder

Versus

To

(CD 1) Sri. A. Subramanyam Naidu, S/o. Mr. Vengama Naidu, R/at : No.605, Brigade Metropolis, Whitefield Road, Mahadevapuram Road, Garudachar Palya, Bangalore - 560048, Karnataka. Also at : No.42/2, Pattanagere, Next to Nandi Concrete Blocks, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore - 560048, Karnataka.

(CD 2) Smt. Meera Bai, W/o. Mr. Subramanyam Naidu, No.605, Brigade Metropolis, Whitefield Road, Mahadevapuram Road, Garudachar Palya, Bangalore - 560048, Karnataka. **... Defendants / Certificate Debtors**

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bengaluru (DRT - I) in OA/576/2022 an Amount of **Rs.54,11,292/- (Rupees Fifty Four Lakh Eleven Thousand Two Hundred and Ninety Two only),** along with pendente lite and future interest @ **12.75%** p.a. simple Intereset Yearly w.e.f. **04-03-2022** till realization and Costs of **Rs. 1,16,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Sixteen Thousand only)** has become due against you (Jointly and severally / Fully / Limited).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within **15 days** of the receipts of the Notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules thereunder.
3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on **17-07-2026** at **10.30 a.m.** for further proceedings.
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay :
   (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
   (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this Notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on the date of : **21-10-2025.**

(P.H. Hemanth Kumar, IRS)
Recovery Officer-II, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, Bengaluru.

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
No.2, K.C. DIVISION, KOLLEGAL-571 440, CHAMARAJANAGAR DISTRICT.
PHONE: 08224-252287

Short Term Tender Notification No. 05/2026-27 Dated: 21-05-2026 (Call-2)
(THROUGH KPP-PORTAL ONLY)

On the behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, CNNL, NO.2, KC Division, Kollegal, the under signed invites KW-4 tender for the work of "Providing and laying gravity main MS pipeline from delivery chamber near Budabalu village to feed water to Hubbehunase tank. 1) from Ch 0.00 km to 3.30 km 2) Ch 3.30 km to 6.60 km in Hanur taluk (2 Works)" from Eligible CPWD/KPWD Class II contractor registered (within the district of the PWD circle) Amount put to Tender: Rs. 396.54 lakhs; EMD: Rs. 5.95 lakhs & Rs. 395.03 lakhs; EMD: Rs. 5.93 lakhs. Tender Processing Fee: As per KPP-Portal.

The contractor have to submit his tender through online KPP-Portal only. More information can be had from web site: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Last date of any queries: 27.05.2026 up to 5.30 PM, Last date for receipt of completed tender and EMD: 29.05.2026 up to 5.00 PM. Date of opening Technical Bid: 30.05.2026 at 5.30 PM, Date of opening of Financial Bid: After approval of Technical Bid. Any other details required can be obtained from office of the under signed during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
No2, KC Division,
Kollegal

NO: DIPR: CHANAGAR: 127:2026-27

EDITORIAL

"There is nothing so patient, in this world or any other, as a virus searching for a host" — Mira Grant

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

SUPREME COURT MUST SETTLE SEDITION LAW QUESTIONS QUICKLY

SINCE 2022, sedition cases across the country have been left hanging. After the Supreme Court put Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code on hold and told governments not to register fresh cases, many pending trials and appeals stopped midway. An order meant to protect people from misuse of the law ended up keeping several accused persons stuck for years in jail while their cases remained undecided.

The SC's May 21 clarification partly resolves that problem. The court said proceedings may continue if the accused wants the case to move forward. The clarification arose during the hearing of a Madhya Pradesh prisoner who spent 17 years in custody. His appeal remained stalled because sedition was one among several charges in the case. The court thus recognised an important reality: delay itself can become punishment.

The court put sedition cases on hold in 2022 after Centre told it that the colonial-era sedition law under Section 124A would be reviewed. The court then asked governments not to file new sedition cases and halted pending proceedings while challenges to the constitutional validity of Section 124A remained pending before it. The idea was to suspend the use of the provision until the court decided whether the law itself was constitutional.

However, the interim safeguard gradually created prolonged uncertainty. In many cases, sedition charges were accompanied by allegations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Arms Act and other criminal laws. Once courts treated the freeze as absolute, even connected appeals and trials slowed down. For prisoners seeking acquittal, bail or suspension of sentence, the delays became prolonged. Available National Crime Records Bureau data show that 399 sedition cases were registered between 2014 and 2020, while convictions remained low.

The clarification is, therefore, welcome, but it also exposes the unresolved confusion surrounding sedition law in India. The old IPC has already been replaced by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. However, Section 152 of the new code punishes acts said to threaten India's sovereignty, unity and integrity. Though the term 'sedition' has disappeared, critics argue that the substance survives in broader language and with harsher penalties.

The Supreme Court has now addressed one immediate unfairness faced by accused persons. It should next decide whether offences under both provisions are compatible with constitutional guarantees of free speech and liberty, rather than allowing prolonged uncertainty over the scope of such laws.

STRAY CRISIS: STATES NEED TO FIX A BROKEN SYSTEM

THE Supreme Court's recent order on stray dogs and cattle has rightly drawn attention—and the court's ire—to the lethargy of states, Union territories and local bodies in implementing Centre's animal birth control (ABC) policy, more than 20 years after its adoption. By invoking the right to life, the SC has raised the stakes for states and local bodies that have allowed the stray dog situation to reach a crisis point. The court also permitted euthanasia for rabid, incurably ill or demonstrably dangerous stray dogs, citing the need to protect human life and public safety. In an issue too often framed as dog lovers versus members of the public, the court rightly places accountability on state agencies and warns of action for failure to comply with its directions. These agencies cannot hide behind questions about the practicality of the court's directions when they have failed to consistently implement basic aspects of the ABC policy at a meaningful scale.

The policy requires local bodies to humanely catch stray dogs, neuter or spay and immunise them before releasing them in the same locality. However, it is on this last aspect that the court differs, insisting that the animals be relocated from institutional spaces to shelters. Critics questioned the practicality of this direction, citing the resources of space, manpower and funds that would be required to humanely house large numbers of dogs throughout their lives in shelters. The court dismissed these concerns in its latest order, while expressing dismay that, even after the issue had reached the highest court, states had done little to scale up efforts or begin building the necessary infrastructure. That failure, in itself, highlights the magnitude of the problem faced by the public.

There may still be practical difficulties in implementing the court's directions regarding the sheltering of all relocated strays—especially given the ABC's standard of procedure, which allows the definition of institutional spaces to be expanded—but state agencies must make a start. It is fallacious to reduce the issue to dog life versus human life when both can be protected if the matter is sufficiently prioritised. That requires allocation of funds, monitoring of their utilisation and effective sterilising and immunisation of animals undertaken in mission mode. The SC has delegated state-wise monitoring to the high courts. It is well past time for states to get their act together.

QUICK TAKE

GHOST GUN GAP

WHAT happens when the law finally catches up, but technology has already moved ahead? That question now confronts Colorado, US, where Governor Jared Polis has signed a law expanding penalties for illegal gun manufacturing to include weapons made through 3D printers. The move targets the growing spread of 'ghost guns', firearms without serial numbers that are almost impossible to trace. Earlier laws focused on traditional gun-making methods, but cheap printers and downloadable blueprints have changed the game. India may not yet face the problem, though the warning signs are visible. Today's crude *katta* could easily become tomorrow's untraceable plastic weapon. Indian law must equip itself to clearly define and regulate that shift.

The government cites growing caseloads to raise the number of SC judges through an Ordinance, but only deeper judicial reforms can preserve institutional coherence and constitutional integrity

EXPANDING THE COURT, AVOIDING A LARGER DEBATE

KAPIL SIBAL
Senior lawyer and member of Rajya Sabha

SOURAV ROY

UNDER Article 124(1) of the Constitution, Parliament has the authority, through legislation—which does not require a constitutional amendment—to increase, from time to time, the number of judges in the Supreme Court of India.

Article 123(1) of the Constitution empowers the President of India, if both Houses of Parliament are not in session, to promulgate an Ordinance. Article 123(2) stipulates that an Ordinance promulgated under this article shall have the same force and effect as an Act of Parliament, but every such Ordinance is required to be ratified within six weeks of Parliament being in session. It will cease to operate at the expiration of the said period, or if before the expiration of that period, resolutions disapproving it are passed by both Houses. Ordinances are ordinarily issued in emergent situations.

In accordance with the constitutional provisions referred above, the President issued the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026, which was notified on May 16, 2026, as the Parliament was not in session. By virtue of this Ordinance, the strength of the judges of the Supreme Court, currently 33 excluding the Chief Justice of India, is sought to be increased to 37.

The Supreme Court's strength has increased over time since 1950. In that year, there were only 7 judges, excluding the Chief Justice. In 1986, through an amendment to the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956, the strength of judges was increased to 26. The strength was further increased to 30 in 2008, 33 in 2019 and to 37 now in 2026, excluding the Chief Justice of India.

In this context, several issues arise for consideration. The rationale for increasing the strength of the Supreme Court is quite clear. Litigation has increased exponentially. The population of India, 34 crore in 1950, has now gone up to 140 crore. The government will rightly argue that it is impossible for just 34 judges to dispose of the avalanche of matters filed each year.

The logic for this increase also raises concerns.

First, will the increase in the strength of judges from 34 to 37 stem the number of petitions filed in the Supreme Court? The average number of petitions pending consideration in each court sometimes reaches 60 or more on a Monday or a Friday. Two additional benches will not stem the tide. So, should we, in the years ahead, increase the strength to 40, 45, 50, or maybe even higher?

We are aware that the Supreme Court sits in benches of 2 or 3 judges. With the strength of 38, we could have a maximum of 17 odd benches. This translates to 17 Supreme Courts, for the decision of each of these benches is the decision of the Supreme Court.

Secondly, we know that judges sitting in benches in different combinations think differently. The outcome of judicial proceedings thus depends on the bench before which the matter is listed. Divergent interpretations of the law cause confusion when they are sought to be reconciled in the hierarchy of courts below. This, in turn, leads to further litigation. A reference to larger benches to reconcile the apparent conflict in the judgements delivered leads to uncertainty. Such benches are sometimes not constituted for months, or even years.

We have a Supreme Court, which, in its functioning, does not cater to both uniformity and certainty.

The US Supreme Court has a fixed number of judges, who decide matters when sitting together. The majority decision is the law. There are no separate benches.

I am, though, not the one who is enthused by the manner in which the Supreme Court judges in the US are appointed. So, we do not have to follow the US system. However, we need a public debate. We need judges to interact with key members of the legal fraternity; we need the government on board and to decide how and in what manner we can help reduce the backlog of cases pending in the Supreme Court and, indeed, in the high courts. We need to move forward to ensure the integrity of the Supreme Court as an institution, whose decisions carry the authority of the law, is not compromised.

Litigation will continue to rise. New laws fuel litigation. Weaponising the law breeds litigation. The government is the largest litigator. Communities targetted by the law have no recourse but to seek justice. The expansion of the economy and the adoption of new technologies require regulation through law. That too requires the court's affirmation or intervention when challenged. Increasing the strength of judges in the Supreme Court is not the answer. We require deliberations and a roadmap for the future.

Coming back to the Ordinance, it is possible that during the period Parliament is in session, the collegium of the Supreme Court will have decided to recommend names to fill the additional vacancies arising out of the aforesaid 2026 Ordinance. It is also possible that the vacancies will be filled before the monsoon session commences in July. There will then be no debate on the subject in Parliament. We will lose the opportunity for a full-fledged, thoughtful interaction in Parliament.

Ordinances are issued when Parliament is not in session, but only in matters which require urgent resolution. The Government has been waiting for seven long years since 2019 to increase the strength of the Supreme Court to 38. It could have waited a few more months so the amendment Bill could have been fully debated. We would have placed on record our views for future generations regarding the direction we thought this Republic should take, in the context of the Supreme Court of India as an institution. Quantity does not necessarily mean quality.

The issues raised need to be addressed. The Supreme Court is the only institution that has the power and duty to protect and preserve our constitutional values, which will chart the future course of our Republic.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @KapilSibal)

PEARLS AND PRAYER

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

WITH West Asia in the news every day, though for sad reasons, a related reverie comes to mind, one that engaged my thoughts, with one association leading to another. One day, I accompanied a friend and her mother to their old family jeweller before we went out to lunch. The jewellers themselves went back seven generations in the business. They were part of history, their ancestors apparently having been khazanchis or treasurers to the last Mughal king of Delhi, Bahadur Shah Zafar.

I wear a plain jade bangle and costume jewellery, but I admire fine craftsmanship wherever I see it without the least desire to own it. The polished young heir who attended to my friends noticed my gaze wandering to a few antique pieces on display and we had a brief conversation about their provenance. He brought out an antique '*haldili*'—a large, flat jade pendant inlaid with precious stones—hung on a chain, telling me it was worn next to the skin in Mughal times for the perceived healing properties of jade. He invited me to try it on, which I did for a few minutes, while he turned back to my friends.

His background made me think of the Khimjis of Oman, another old Indian business family with an interesting historical connection. Their presence out there goes back three centuries to when their Gujarati ancestors imported grain, tea and spices from India and exported dates, dry limes and frankincense from Oman. After the arrival of Ramdas Thackersey and his son Khimji Ramdas in 1870, the family business expanded enormously across the consumer, infrastructure and industrial sectors. The head of the family, the late Kanaksi Khimji, was granted Omani citizenship and given the title of Sheikh, becoming the only Hindu Sheikh in the world. The family reportedly runs Hindu community temples and has established schools in Mandvi, Kutch, from where they hail.

On my friend's list of tasks for the Delhi jeweller was the rewiring of a pair of gold *baalis*, hooped earrings set with clusters of dainty Basra pearls. The name comes from the port city of Basra, which was the old trading centre and where Sindbad the sailor embarked. It lies in southern Iraq, along the Shatt al-Arab river, inland from the Persian Gulf. These natural pearls are harvested on the coasts of several countries around the Gulf, including Oman, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iran.

Two other 'Basra pearls' came to mind when I saw those earrings—the early Sufis Hasan Basri and Rabia al-Basri.

The story goes that Hasan Basri (642-728 CE) was born in Medina and settled in Basra as a gem merchant before he converted to Sufism. He famously wrote to an Umayyad Caliph, "Make this world into a bridge over which you cross but do not build on".

India's connection to heritage and craftsmanship of the Persian Gulf is deeply rooted in the extensive and historical trade networks between the two regions. Traces of the Sufi thought that travelled those seas can be seen both in jewellery and inscriptions on monuments

This ascetic thought, though attributed to Jesus, is inscribed on the Buland Darwaza, the entry to Fatehpur Sikri near Agra—"Isa, son of Mary, said: The world is a bridge; pass over it but build no houses upon it. He who hopes for a day may hope for eternity, but the world endures just an hour. Spend it in prayer, for the rest is unseen."

That was a curious choice of words by Akbar, who built Fatehpur Sikri as his grand new capital with his immense war booty at the height of his expansionism. The quotation became a self-fulfilling prophecy, as Fatehpur Sikri was abandoned after just 14 years due to a lack of water. The British made an administrative centre there between 1803 and 1850 and the Marquess of Hastings ordered the first repairs in 1815. It became a tourist spot after Independence, where the saying associated with Hasan Basri lingers ominously.

This Sufi code of 'simple living and high thinking' was famously embodied by the woman saint of Basra, Rabia al-Adwiya or Rabia al-Basri. Her name means 'the fourth' in Arabic, as she was her family's fourth child. She is said to have lived between 714 or 718 and 801 CE.

Rabia's parents were socially respected but very poor. Her father died when she was a little girl. A great famine afflicted Basra soon after, and the family was scattered. Rabia was kidnapped from a caravan by a bandit and sold as a slave for six dirhams.

The terrified child clung to the thought of God since no human being cared for her. She kept very quiet, fasted and prayed as much as she could between her exhausting household chores. One night, her owner woke up and saw her praying silently in the courtyard. It seemed to him that there was a great blaze of light around her, although all the lamps had been put out. He set her free, afraid of divine punishment if he did not.

Rabia moved to the wilderness with a broken pitcher and an old reed mat. Many people and a number of wild animals were drawn to her fearlessly. She transformed Sufism profoundly with her personal credo of '*ishq*', that one should love God for God's own sake, not out of fear. Rabia lived unmolested all her life, though not untaunted. Abashed by her austerity, some men scornfully said that no woman had ever been a prophet. Rabia retorted that ego and 'self-worship' were prominent male traits. She became a legend for her sincerity and staunchness…

"We're done, let's go," said my friend, breaking the spell, and I abandoned my musings for a spot of lunch.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Inconvenient peace

Ref: *Profitable statecraft and elusive peace* (May 24). The argument is unsettling but accurate. When wars serve domestic political calendars, peace becomes structurally inconvenient. The real losers are ordinary people paying through fuel prices, supply disruptions and global instability. Multilateral institutions urgently need reform to constrain this cynical weaponisation of conflict.
S M Jeeva, Chennai

Pro-rich govts

Ref: *Economic impasse* (May 24). India has everything that a country needs to flourish even without the trace of poverty. But it's the pro-rich policy of successive governments that produces a handful of billionaires on one hand and maintains a vast section of the population with livelihood plights.
A G Rajmohan, Anantapur

Public woes

Ref: *Car pools into cab trains* (May 24). Last-mile connectivity continues to remain a challenge in cities. The examples mentioned are exceptions, not the norm. Most sidewalks are damaged or encroached upon, leaving the pedestrian at the mercy of honking and impatient drivers. Extreme weather conditions haven't made things easier either.
Balasubrahmanian S, email

Phogat's fight

Ref: *Phogat wins the dangal* (May 24). The Delhi HC order is assuring and has rightly flagged the frivolous grounds of disqualification. It is best that the federation shuns its vengeance towards women wrestlers who have brought glory to the nation and spoke up against abuse.
C Chandrasekaran Bharathi, Madurai

Police reforms

Ref: *Official privilege* (*The New Sunday Express Magazine*, May 24). Staying humble and walking shoulder-to-shoulder with the common man is a *sine qua non* of a healthy democracy. Isolation in the name of security is no good for hopeful voters. Most importantly, lamppost policemen might be better off trying to prevent a crime.
Kumar Govindan, Attur

Severed INDIA

Ref: *DMK lambasts Cong* (May 24). DMK lamenting about the backstab is too late. Hope the INDIA bloc recognises the Congress's power-grabbing attitude before accepting its leadership. Better to not be left in the lurch when found unuseful.
V S Ganeshan, Bengaluru

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**
Resident Editor (Karnataka): **Nirad G Mudur** * Published by **N Gopalan** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 62, No. 123 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893. * Responsible to decide the matter under the PRP Act. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

POSTS OF THE DAY

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
When millions of youth are on the streets, the future of 22 lakh children is at stake, and the PM remains silent—then the government is not focused on responding

Abhishek Banerjee @abhishekaitc
Although more than 1000 workers from Falta have been forced to flee their homes in the last 10 days, the Election Commission continued to turn a blind eye

Sambit Patra @sambitswaraj
The Modi government enjoys the unwavering trust and blessings of 140 crore countrymen. This government will continue to serve the people

IAF chief bats for local air power, prefers fast supply

Says Tejas Mk-1A delays and fighter squadron shortfall worrisome

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

AIR Chief Marshal A P Singh has pressed for faster induction of indigenous military aircraft and systems, saying design-to-delivery timelines must be compressed, as the Indian Air Force (IAF) grapples with a widening fighter squadron deficit and the phased retirement of several ageing combat fleets.

According to an IAF statement issued on Sunday, the Air Chief, while addressing graduating officers of the 48th Flight Test Course at the Air Force Test Pilots School (AFTPS) in Bengaluru on Saturday, called for "optimising design-to-delivery time cycles" while maintaining the highest standards of safety and quality.

The chief also stressed the importance of professional competence to ensure that aircraft and systems meet the "operational requirements of the service," the statement added.

The remarks come as the IAF continues to push for the timely induction of the Tejas Mk-1A light combat aircraft, which is considered critical to arresting the force's declining squadron strength.

The programme, already running over two years behind schedule, has seen its delivery timelines repeatedly revised. Initial deliveries, originally due in October last year, were later deferred to March and subsequently to June-July. HAL said last week that it is now hoping to begin deliveries by August-September.

As reported earlier, the IAF, which had previously shown flexibility on certain delivery-linked operational requirements to facilitate induction, is learnt to be examining additional relaxations aimed at accelerating Tejas Mk-1A deliveries. It is learnt that efforts are also underway to validate the EL/M-2052 AESA radar and fully integrate it with the aircraft's electronic warfare suite, mission systems and weapons package, which form the elements of the Tejas Mk-1A's mandatory operational requirements.

According to the IAF statement, Singh also batted for 'Aatmanirbharta" (self reliance) as a strategic necessity and underlined the role of flight-test personnel in strengthening indigenous defence capabilities and India's aerospace ecosystem.

'Aatmanirbharta' a strategic necessity, says Singh

According to the IAF statement, ACM A P Singh also batted for "Aatmanirbharta" (self-reliance) as a strategic necessity and underlined the role of flight-test personnel in strengthening indigenous defence capabilities and India's aerospace ecosystem.

IIT experts, banks told to help CBSE fix payment, tech glitch for revaluation

S LALITHA & IFRAH MUFTI @ New Delhi

AMID complaints of technical glitches and overcharging during the re-evaluation process for the CBSE Class XII papers on its portal, the Education Ministry has announced two measures to rectify the issues. Experts from IIT Madras and IIT Kanpur will assist the board in the process, and four public sector banks will create payment protocols to facilitate a smooth refund process.

Students applying for revaluation for scanned mark sheets on May 21 and 22 reportedly faced massive server disruption due to heavy traffic and were overcharged between ₹8,000 and ₹67,000 instead of ₹100 per subject.

The ministry said Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has given directions to depute teams of professors and technical experts from IIT-Madras and IIT-Kanpur to examine technical issues reported since the rollout of this year's post-examination re-evaluation services and assist the CBSE in ensuring a glitch-free process.

"The expert team will implement focused technological improvements of the systems and technical workflows and will specifically examine portal stability and server performance," it said.

The minister also spoke with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman regarding payment related issues. "During the discussion, it was decided that four Public Sector Banks—State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank and Indian Bank—will assist the CBSE in strengthening its payment gateway infrastructure and necessary integration with the post examination services portal," the ministry said.

Pradhan also directed the CBSE to overhaul its Payment Gateway System.

Meanwhile, the CBSE, in an official notice dated May 24, acknowledged that "technical issues" had led to incorrect fee deductions, and assured students that excess amounts would be refunded.

"Certain technical issues led to incorrect fee deductions in some cases," the notice stated.

INSIDER TRACK

Murmu offers governance mantra

President Droupadi Murmu used her recent interaction with 2024-batch IAS officers at Rashtrapati Bhawan to deliver a balanced lesson in administrative temperament. Addressing officers who called on her and who are serving as Assistant Secretaries across Union Ministries, the President urged them to remain compassionate and inclusive without allowing emotion to overwhelm judgment. Her formulation was simple: Be sensitive, but not sentimental.
Murmu reminded the young officers: "Your sensitivity will be the measure of your commitment to inclusivity. You have to blend compassion with rationality and you need to be sensitive without being sentimental and while following the rule, you should not lose sight of the larger objectives."

2025 batch IPS officers in limbo

The IPS officers selected through the UPSC's 2025 examination cycle are still uncertain about their postings. IAS and IFoS officers from that batch got their cadre allocations last December, but the home ministry continues to withhold notifications for IPS officers, despite the next recruitment cycle opening on May 24. The delay is making the probationers anxious because postings are linked to training alignments and service planning. Initially, many officers suspected the hold-up was caused by changes in the cadre allocation policy. Government officials, however, maintained revisions do not directly affect candidates from the 2025 cycle. The prevailing explanation inside official circles points instead towards unresolved administrative processing under the allocation framework.

Delhi's Manipur reset with new DGP

The Centre's appointment of 1996-batch AGMUT cadre IPS officer Mukesh Singh as Manipur's DGP has completed an administrative realignment in the violence-scarred state. With 1991-batch AGMUT cadre IAS officer Puneet Kumar Goel already functioning as Chief Secretary, both the bureaucracy and policing structure are now under officers drawn from outside Manipur's state cadre ecosystem. Officials describe the arrangement as a rare administrative manoeuvreby the Centre. New Delhi's decision aims to bypass regional administrative silos to deal with the prolonged crisis on its own terms.

Employees' attendance clock ticks

The CPWD has become stricter with employees following an internal review that revealed indifference towards Aadhaar-based biometric attendance norms and time discipline. Senior officials have now instructed all unit heads and cadre controlling authorities to ensure employees report punctually and mark attendance through the designated biometric portal. The message circulating within the department is stern: Attendance compliance is not just a formality. Officers have also been asked to monitor attendance records and not treat irregularities casually. Employees have been reminded that they cannot proceed on leave without prior approval from competent authorities. Unauthorised absence, officials warned, will invite disciplinary proceedings under service rules.

Annamalai and the home bet buzz

K Annamalai's possible Rajya Sabha entry is being interpreted within BJP circles as something larger than post-election accommodation. Senior leaders believe the former Tamil Nadu BJP chief is being considered for a Minister of State position in the Home Ministry during the expected Cabinet expansion after June 15. A former IPS officer who transitioned aggressively into politics, Annamalai is regarded internally as disciplined, politically dependable and organisationally sharp. Speculation is that he could replace a current MoS from a southern state in the Home Ministry. Internal security responsibilities require someone sharp, disciplined and politically astute, qualities he has developed over time with his policing background, remarked a BJP leader.

Centre's steps on Ladakh positive but more needs to be done, says Wangchuk

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

ACTIVIST and innovator Sonam Wangchuk on Saturday described recent talks between Ladakh representatives and the Centre as a "positive step", while cautioning that genuine trust in the Union Territory would depend on concrete action on unresolved issues linked to last year's protests and institutional disputes.

In his reported remarks, the activist from Ladakh, who was part of the delegation, said optimism had increased following the latest meeting between Ladakh leaders and a sub-committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs, but added that the Centre's intentions would ultimately be judged by decisions taken in the coming weeks.

He warned that tensions in Ladakh had escalated sharply in recent months, raising fears of deepening communal and regional divisions. According to Wangchuk, the atmosphere had become so strained that he feared Ladakh could slide towards unrest similar to that seen in Manipur.

"Last week was very negative. There was conflict everywhere. I thought Ladakh would become another Manipur; it was heading in that direction," he said.

Wangchuk noted that the recent discussions had somewhat altered his outlook after a period of disappointment, particularly following his detention earlier this year. "This meeting has made some difference... Otherwise, I was very disappointed," he said.

However, Wangchuk argued that assurances of "trust-building" and "meaningful dialogue" had yet to translate into reality on the ground. He claimed divisions had intensified across communities in Leh and Kargil, with growing friction among both Buddhists and Muslims.

Withdrawal of cases

According to Wangchuk, confidence-building measures would require the withdrawal of cases related to the September 24 protests, the return of seized electronic devices, and resolution of issues concerning the Himalayan Institute of Alternatives, Ladakh.

After 12 days and a second autopsy, Twisha laid to rest

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

A team of doctors from AIIMS Delhi completed the second autopsy of 33-year-old model-actor Twisha Sharma in Bhopal on Sunday. The process lasted three hours.

The AIIMS team will submit its report in a sealed envelope to the Special Investigation Team, as directed by the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

Twisha was found hanging at her matrimonial home in Bhopal's Katara Hills area on May 12, with her family accusing her in-laws of dowry harassment and abetment to suicide. Her in-laws, however, alleged she suffered from drug addiction.

Two hours after the second autopsy was completed, and 12 days after she was found dead, Twisha's body was cremated on Sunday afternoon.

Her brother Harshit Sharma, an army officer, performed the last rites, including rendering 'mukhagni' to the body at the Bhadbhada Vishram Ghat in Bhopal. Emotions were high. Twisha's mother and other members of her family were inconsolable as the funeral pyre was lit.

Case in SC today

The Supreme Court is set hear the Twisha Sharma death case on Monday. The court had taken suo motu cognisance of the case on Saturday. A three-judge bench of the court, headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant and comprising justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul Pancholi, will hear the matter

No one from her husband's family, including the ex-judge mother-in-law Giribala Singh and brother-in-law Siddharth Singh, an Indian Air Force officer, attended the funeral.

Meanwhile, sources said Twisha's husband Samarth Singh is not fully cooperating with the Bhopal Police's Special Investigation Team.

The investigators are not convinced by certain answers he has given. While the focus is on the events of May 12, the SIT is looking into every aspect of Samarth and Twisha's life, right from the time they became close through a dating app in 2024. It is also trying to determine where Samarth was hiding and what role his mother had played in helping him.

Sources said the initial questioning of Samarth has revealed that Twisha wasn't keen to lead a family life. There was a drastic change in her behaviour after her pregnancy was confirmed on April 17, sources said.

On Saturday, Twisha's father submitted a detailed representation along with a copy of the high court order to the medical board, raising several concerns regarding the first autopsy.

Among the concerns raised were alleged blunt force injuries on Twisha's left arm and forearm, lack of detailed dissection to determine the depth and age of injuries, and absence of radiological examination of the neck and cervical structures.

POLITICAL DUEL

Congress finds faults with $500 bn US import targets

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE Congress on Sunday targeted PM Narendra Modi over US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's remarks that India has committed to purchasing USD 500 billion worth of American goods over the next five years, alleging that the "compromised PM" was going the extra mile to appease his "good friend".

Congress general secretary in charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh, also asked why the Modi government had not shown the courage to renounce what he termed an "anti-people and "dangerous" India-US trade deal, as countries such as Malaysia had done.

He also questioned why the Modi government had agreed to record imports from the US when the PM had on record asked citizens to cut down on domestic fuel consumption and overseas travel to save foreign exchange. Will this surge in imports not further cause the rupee to depreciate? he further asked.

"At 5:37 PM IST on May 10, 2025, it was US Secretary of State Marco Rubio who first made the announcement of the ceasefire that brought Operation Sindoor to an unexpected halt. He had claimed that it was intervention by President Trump that made the ceasefire possible," Ramesh said on X. On May 21, 2026, Rubio was again the very first to announce that the president of Venezuela would be visiting India next week, Ramesh said.

MP: Control airfares to Gulf nations

Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Vivek Tankha has urged the Centre to intervene in the sharp rise in airfares on India-Gulf routes, saying the ticket prices are preventing overseas Indians from visiting their families. He stressed that prolonged separation from families carries an emotional and social cost.

Rahul comment on govt fall invites BJP criticism

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE BJP on Sunday launched a scathing attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his latest statement claiming that the Modi government could collapse next year.

Addressing a programme organised by his party's minority advisory wing on Tuesday, Rahul Gandhi had predicted the fall of the Modi government in 2027.

Launching a frontal assault, BJP leaders accused the Congress leader of conspiring to destabilise the Narendra Modi government by "creating anarchy" in the country, alleging that he was acting at the behest of foreign forces.

Several BJP leaders, including Union minister Piyush Goyal, claimed that Gandhi's "plan" stands exposed.

In a post on X in Hindi, Goyal said Gandhi's statement pointed to a "massive conspiracy" involving the Congress, several opposition parties,

and what he described as a "toolkit gang", which he alleged harboured ambitions of destabilising India.

"This is no ordinary statement. Rather, it constitutes a conspiracy aimed at spreading anarchy in the country," the senior BJP leader said.

Goyal alleged that Gandhi and his "associates" were attempting to "incite violence" across the country after realising that Congress could neither defeat BJP nor dislodge the Modi government.

BJP Rajya Sabha MP Sudhanshu Trivedi alleged that Gandhi's remarks reflected a public display of a "dangerous mindset aimed at destabilising India".

US PUSHES TRADE DEAL, INDIA FLAGS VISA CONCERNS

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

INDIA and the US on Sunday sought to project continuity and momentum in their strategic partnership despite unease over trade talks and tightening American visa policies, with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar raising concerns over difficulties faced by legitimate Indian travellers seeking entry into the US.

Addressing a joint press conference in Delhi alongside US Secretary of State Marco Rubio after delegation-level talks, Jaishankar said the two sides had made progress on trade negotiations and remained committed to deepening cooperation in energy, technology, mobility and regional security.

"We spoke about the value of concluding at an early date the final text of the interim agreement regarding reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade," Jaishankar said, and referred to efforts to operationalise the bilateral trade framework envisioned during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington earlier this year.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during a bilateral meeting at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Sunday | PTI

An Indian delegation had recently travelled to the US, he said, while an American team was expected in India soon. Rubio confirmed that both sides were "on the verge" of reaching a durable agreement.

Energy security emerged as another major focus of the talks. Jaishankar underscored that India's priority remained ensuring affordable and accessible supplies.

Flagging concerns about delays in US visa processing, the minister said "People-to-people ties are at the heart of the relationship... I apprised Secretary Rubio of challenges that legitimate travellers face in respect of visa issuance."

In response, Rubio said the recent visa policy changes were not aimed at India.

NEET PAPER LEAK

Manisha Sanjay Havaldar, principal of a Pune school arrested in the NEET-UG paper leak case, shared exam questions with a few students for money, the CBI has told a local court.

3 KILLED AS TRAILER HITS BIKE IN RAJ's RAJSAMAND

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	29	Mumbai	33	31
Bhopal	42	29	Panaji	33	28
Jaipur	42	31	Patna	41	27
Amritsar	40	25	Lucknow	43	29
Chennai	37	29	Port Blair	30	27
Kolkata	37	30	Imphal	26	21
Srinagar	22	10	Chandigarh	41	27

TMC fortress Falta falls as BJP wins by over 1L votes

CPM gets second spot with 40K votes after Didi nominee withdrew

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

THE BJP on Sunday won the re-election for the Falta seat, the traditional stronghold of the Trinamool Congress within the Diamond Harbour (DH) Lok Sabha constituency in South 24-Parganas.

With this victory, the BJP's tally in the Bengal legislative Assembly has reached 208 out of 294 assembly constituencies. The result also highlights a significant electoral rise of the CPM Left Front, which secured the second position in Falta after the BJP.

The BJP's main rival, the former ruling party Trinamool Congress, has been decimated, finishing fourth with just 7,756 votes, while Congress bagged 10,000 votes after the 21st round of counting. Repolling at the Falta constituency took place on May 21 in 285 polling stations without any reports of violence. BJP candidate Debangshu Panda, who won the seat with 1,49,000 votes, defeated his rival Sambhunath Kurmi of CPM, who received 40,000 votes, by a margin of more than 1,08,000 votes.

Expressing his gratitude to the voters for his party's landslide victory in Falta, CM Suvendu Adhikari said in an X post in Bengali, 'Trinamool Congress's notorious "Diamond Harbour" model from today has been turned into a "model defeat". First of all, I express my gratitude to the people of Falta for sending our BJP candidate to the Legislative Assembly with a huge mandate."

"I had also made requests to you (voters) to make our candidate a winner with a margin of at least one lakh votes. But you have given him more. I owe a lot to you and pay it back through development works in Falta."

The re-election in Falta was significant for the BJP, which now has 207 seats and has formed its first government in the state. It was also important for the CPM which is desperately trying to emerge as the second political force after Trinamool. Notably, TMS-nominated candidate Jahangir Khan, a local strongman and a close aide to Abhishek Banerjee—national general secretary of the TMC—withdrew his candidature from Falta, his home turf, on May 20, just a day before the repolling.

BJP supporters celebrate outside a counting centre at Falta on Sunday | PTI

BJP's tally in House reaches 208 out of 294

With this victory, the BJP's tally in the Bengal legislative Assembly has reached 208 out of 294 assembly constituencies. The result also highlights a significant electoral rise of the CPM Left Front, which secured the second position in Falta after the BJP.

INDIA bloc to regroup at Lalu family function

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

LEADERS of the Opposition INDIA bloc are expected to huddle up in Ghaziabad on May 27, where they will attend a special banquet being hosted to mark the first birthday of RJD chief and ex-Bihar CM Lalu Prasad's grandson, Iraj Lalu Yadav.

Lalu, his wife and former CM Rabri Devi and their son, Bihar Assembly LoP Tejashwi Yadav, have already arrived in New Delhi ahead of the celebrations. Tejashwi is making arrangements for the banquet, which will be held at his sister Ragini's residence. Even though the event is being described as a strictly family affair, sources claim that Tejashwi has extended invitations for the event to several prominent Opposition leaders, including Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee, and Aam Aadmi Party national convenor Arvind Kejriwal.

Sources claim RJD MPs, MLAs, MLCs and key office-bearers of the party have also been invited. RJD spokesperson Mritunjay Tiwari, however, insists, "This is entirely a family function. It does not have any political significance."

However, political observers suggest that Lalu wanted to convey a message of strength by bringing opposition leaders together on a single platform.

'Biggest mistake': Dissent grows in J&K Cong over continued ties with NC

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE dissent in the Congress is growing over its continued alliance with the ruling National Conference (NC) in Jammu and Kashmir, with several leaders questioning the decision.

The infighting surfaced after ex-J&K Congress chief Viqar Rasool launched a scathing attack on the alliance, calling it the "biggest mistake" committed by the party ahead of the 2024 Assembly elections.

"Congress workers have gained nothing from supporting the NC-led government. The NC government is nearing two years, but there is no benefit either for the Congress or for its grassroots workers," said Viqar, who was removed from the post of J&K Congress chief ahead of Assembly polls in UT in 2024. He took a swipe at two senior Congress leaders, including president J&K Congress chief Tariq Hamid Karra, alleging that the interests of 90 constituencies were sacrificed for two constituencies and protocol politics.

Vikar accused the NC government of betraying public trust by failing to fulfil election promises and guarantees made during the Assembly campaign. He also alleged that NC helped BJP secure a Rajya Sabha seat instead of supporting Congress, allegedly at the behest of Amit Shah. The ex-PCC chief urged the Congress high command to reconsider its alliance with the NC, saying the arrangement was no longer in the party's interest. Backing Vikar, Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Monga alleged that a conspiracy within the party led to Vikrar's removal as JKPCC chief ahead of 2024 Assembly elections. "Some leaders misled Rahul Gandhi and pushed for a leadership change to facilitate an alliance with the NC," he alleged.

According to Monga, Congress could have secured 12 to 15 Assembly seats had it contested alone. "Instead, the party was reduced to just six seats after an alliance with NC. "Congress was in a strong position before the elections, but the alliance damaged the party's prospects," he added.

SRINAGAR DIARY

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Our correspondent in Jammu and Kashmir

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Govt announces slew of austerity measures

The J&K govt has introduced a series of austerity measures aimed at fiscal discipline, curbing non-essential expenditure, and promoting digital governance. As per an order by the Finance Department, the holding of exhibitions, fairs, seminars, conferences, and workshops outside UT has been strongly discouraged. Besides, a ban has been imposed on holding meetings and conferences in private hotels and commercial venues. The govt departments have been asked to ensure that condemned vehicles are auctioned and auction proceeds deposited as miscellaneous revenue before submission of any proposal for replacement vehicles.

No constitutional safeguards in J&K

J&K's leaders have come under severe criticism for their failure to obtain constitutional safeguards for the UT. On August 5, 2019, the Centre scrapped Article 370 and bifurcated the erstwhile J&K state into two UTs – Jammu and Kashmir (with legislature) and Ladakh (without legislature). In a rare unity after the Article 370 abrogation, the leaders of Leh and Kargil in Ladakh joined hands and agitated for constitutional safeguards and statehood with a legislature and eventually achieved success with the Centre agreeing to grant the cold desert constitutional safeguards and democratic setup more power than existing UTs under Article 371.

Anti-drug drive: 850 FIRs, 942 arrests

Since the launch of an anti-drug drive by L-G Manoj Sinha in Jammu and Kashmir on April 11 to eradicate the growing drug menace from the region, law enforcement agencies have registered 850 NDPS FIRs and arrested 942 persons. According to officials, authorities have intensified financial investigations against narcotics syndicates by targeting illegally acquired assets linked to drug traffickers. As many as 55 houses belonging to drug traffickers have been sealed or demolished and 71 immovable properties worth approximately ₹46.32 crore attached or seized. Meanwhile, 34 properties valued at around ₹16.48 crore have also been demolished.

PUNJAB

Cross-border drug ring busted, four arrested

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

THE Punjab Police has busted a cross-border drug smuggling module with the arrest of four people at Guruharsahai in Ferozepur, an officer said Sunday. The police's counter intelligence wing recovered 28.12 kg of heroin and ₹9.5 lakh in cash from the accused, Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav revealed.

He added that those arrested have been identified as Bagicha Singh and Bhupinder Singh of Boghi Wala village in Guru Har Sahai; Sajan of Araiyan Wala village and Chhinder Pal Singh of Lakha Singh Wala in Ferozepur. The police have also seized a car used by the accused to smuggle narcotics.

A preliminary investigation has revealed that the module had links with foreign-based smugglers and handlers, who had allegedly tasked the arrested accused with retrieving and further distributing the narcotics consignment in India, Yadav further said.

Further investigation is under way to dismantle the network, the DGP said. A case has been registered under the relevant provisions of the NDPS Act at the State Special Operations Cell, Fazilka

Fake currency racket kingpin with Bangladesh, Nepal links held in Bihar

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

THE Bihar police, in collaboration with the army intelligence, arrested the alleged kingpin of the Indian fake currency racket linked to Nepal and Bangladesh on Sunday.

Daya Tiwari, alias Sushil Tiwari, was nabbed at the India-Nepal border in Bihar's Sitamarhi district. Acting on an intelligence input from the Army Intelligence, a joint team of STF and East Champaran police conducted a raid at different hideouts of Daya Tiwari and took him into custody.

He was wanted in connection with a case registered at Haraiya police station in East Champaran district on January 31. He was operating in Indian territory for long. He used to print fake Indian currency notes and provide the same to his agents. He was on the run ever since a case was registered against him at Haraiya police station in East Champaran district on January 31.

However, his eight associates were arrested by East Champaran police in January this year. During the search operation, Indian fake currency notes with face value of ₹18,500 and Nepali currency worth ₹25 lakh were recovered from his possession.

An official associated with the investigation revealed that chemicals used in making counterfeit notes were also recovered during the search operation. Both central and state intelligence agencies have expressed hope that his arrest would lead to a check on the circulation of fake Indian currency notes in Bihar.

Swarna Prabhat, SP, East Champaran, confirmed the arrest of Tiwari and said that both central and state agencies were behind the arrest of the fugitive currency notes dealer. A case is lodged against him at Haraiya police station in East Champaran district in which investigating officer will seek his police remand, he added.

Past arrest of syndicate along India-Nepal border

Daya Tiwari, alias Sushil Tiwari, was nabbed at the India-Nepal border in Bihar's Sitamarhi district. Earlier, Mohammad Abdul Inam was arrested by SSB and state police from the Madhubani district on the charges of running a fake currency racket along the India-Nepal border.

Guilty or not?: U'khand STF, drug dept differ on illicit unit

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

A bureaucratic standoff has erupted in Uttarakhand as two key state agencies—the Special Task Force (STF) and the Drug Administration Department—find themselves at loggerheads over the handling of illicit drug manufacturing units.

The conflict was triggered by the STF's recent bust of an online network selling spurious medicines, an action that the Drug Administration Department has openly questioned and effectively challenged. The dispute stems from a high-profile operation conducted by the STF, which led to the arrest of two individuals accused of running an illicit online pharmaceutical racket. One of the suspects, Gaurav Tyagi, confessed during interrogation that he and his brother, Mayank (alias Monty), were manufacturing counterfeit drugs of various brands at a factory located in Bhagwanpur, Haridwar.

According to the STF, the duo operated a Facebook page under the name 'S.K. Healthcare', utilising it to sell branded medicines at significantly discounted prices. Acting on these leads, the STF conducted raids on the associated manufacturing facilities. However, the drug administration department has pushed back, claiming that their internal inspections found no wrongdoing. Dr Sudhir Kumar, Assistant Drug Controller, firmly defended the facilities in question. "Our drug inspectors accompanied the STF team to both locations," Kumar stated. "In Kotdwar, our inspector found nothing incriminating. The STF collected samples based solely on suspicion. In Haridwar as well, no illegal activity was detected. The factory is entirely legitimate, holding a valid licence since 2023.

Our team's inputs indicate that the STF found nothing there either." The STF has dismissed these claims, with SSP Ajay Singh emphasising that the agency followed due legal process throughout the operation. "Legally, drug inspectors are the authorised personnel for conducting seizures and sampling. We informed them as per the rules before initiating action at both locations," said Singh. He confirmed that the Kotdwar SIDCUL factory was sealed after officials discovered a large quantity of pharmaceutical manufacturing materials.

Regarding the Haridwar unit, Singh added, "We have sought a progress report on that facility."

THE RIFT WITHIN

STF and Uttarakhand's Drug Administration are at odds over alleged counterfeit drug units

The clash followed an STF crackdown on an online spurious medicines racket

Accused Gaurav Tyagi allegedly confessed to making fake branded drugs with brother Mayank in Haridwar

STF said the duo sold discounted medicines via Facebook page 'SK Healthcare'

STF raided units in Kotdwar and Haridwar; drug officials said no illegality was found

Drug officials said the Haridwar factory has held a valid licence since 2023

STF sealed the Kotdwar SIDCUL unit after recovering pharmaceutical manufacturing material

STF plans to report alleged inaction against the Bhagwanpur unit to the government

THREATS IN RED ZONE

Exit Maoists, enter poachers in Bastar forests

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

FOR decades, the dense, emerald canopies of the Bastar region in Chhattisgarh were governed by the 'Red Terror.' The presence of left-wing extremism (LWE) created a no-man's land where even the hunters feared to tread.

But an equally chilling threat has emerged from the ashes of the insurgency: organised poaching syndicates that are now reportedly outnumbering and overpowering the state's forest guardians. Recently, in the Raja Bungalow area of Dantewada district, the silence of the forest has been replaced by the crackle of deliberate wildfires. Inspection revealed a brutal modus operandi. Poachers are setting the hills ablaze to flush out wildlife. As the smoke thickens, panicked animals—ranging from deer and wild boar to the endangered gaur and even tigers—flee the heat only to run straight into deadly snares and "jaal" (nets) laid out in the clearings.

The Forest Department's vulnerability was laid bare when a small forest team, consisting of just five members, encountered a massive group of approximately 150 men as poachers. Facing a staggering numerical disadvantage, the forest personnel were forced to retreat, leaving the forest and its inhabitants at the mercy of the mob.

This is not an isolated incident. Over the past month, more than half a dozen attacks on forest staff have been reported across the Bastar zone, with officials being injured while trying to protect wildlife in jungle areas, sources said.

Chhattisgarh Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Arun Pandey, however, denies that such a threat or tribal community hunting exists while affirming any such challenging situation will not be allowed. "Bastar Wildlife will now flourish, as we will manage their habitat better by creating more water sources and grasslands in the forested terrain of south Bastar districts. With heightened vigilance to prevent poaching attempts, we will also seek cooperation from local community leaders," he said.

Experts point to a "post-Naxal" power vacuum. While the elimination of LWE has brought a semblance of normalcy, it has also emboldened criminals who were previously deterred by the Maoists' strict control over the terrain. "This is a highly brazen act," wildlife enthusiast Nitin Singhvi wrote to the Chief Secretary, "especially considering the immense efforts made over the years to restore normalcy."

There is a demand to repurpose some of the state's anti-insurgency apparatus. Currently, approximately 1,000 District Reserve Guards personnel are stationed in Dantewada.

WOODS SET AFIRE

1. Poachers are setting the hills ablaze to flush out wildlife.
2. As the smoke thickens, panicked animals flee the heat only to run straight into deadly snares and nets
3. Deer, wild boars, gaurs and tigers have been targeted

J'khand police rope in surrendered Naxals to neutralise IEDs in Saranda

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

ALTHOUGH Saranda is on the verge of becoming free from Maoist influence, the threat posed by Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) continues to loom large. Thousands of IEDs are believed to have been planted across the forest region by Maoists to obstruct the movement of security forces.

Notably, 25 senior Maoist commanders and members of the 'strike squad' operating under Central Committee members Misir Besra alias Sagar Ji and Asim Mandal in the Saranda region surrendered before the police in Ranchi on Thursday. Terming it a historic day, police officials said the Naxal problem will take a turn and soon come to an end.

According to police sources,

File photo

even Maoist cadres themselves are unaware of the exact locations where many of these explosives were planted, as the task was reportedly carried out by a senior Central Technical Committee member and explosives expert, Tech Vishwanath, who recently surrendered before the Telangana Police.

According to police officials, the next six months are extremely critical because the batteries fitted in these IEDs generally remain active for nearly six months. During this, the devices can explode if subjected to heavy pressure.

They further added that once the six-month period passes, the batteries gradually discharge automatically, rendering the explosive mechanism inactive. Though only a very small number of Maoists are left in the Saranda region, security operations still continue.

The Jharkhand Jaguar and the Chaibasa Police will now conduct search operations with an objective to identify the specific locations where these IEDs were planted, and subsequently neutralise them. They are also taking help from the extremists, who previously served as section commanders in Misir Besra's squad surrendered before the police to recover the IEDs.

204 Ebola deaths in DR Congo from 867 suspected cases, says health ministry

GLOBAL WEATHER

Beijing	21	1	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	28	24	SNY	Melbourne	26	15	LC
Dhaka	31	19	SNY	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	21	SNY	New York	7	2	SNY
Houston	31	19	TDS	Singapore	28	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	1	-5	SNY
London	13	9	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

‘Don concurred Iran peace deal must end nuke threat’

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday he and US President Donald Trump had agreed that any final deal with Iran must fully end the Islamic republic’s “nuclear threat”. Netanyahu was referring to a conversation between the two leaders on Saturday night, which Trump had earlier said “went very well”.

“President Trump and I agreed that any final agreement with Iran must eliminate the nuclear threat entirely. This means dismantling Iran’s uranium enrichment facilities and removing enriched nuclear material from its territory,” Netanyahu said in a statement.

“My policy, like that of President Trump, remains unchanged: Iran will not obtain nuclear weapons,” he added. Netanyahu said the two also discussed the memorandum of understanding on the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

“The partnership between our two nations has been proven on the battlefield, and it has never been stronger,” the Israeli leader said, adding that Trump had reaffirmed his support for Israel’s right to defend itself against threats on all fronts, “including in Lebanon”.

Will not rush deal: Trump

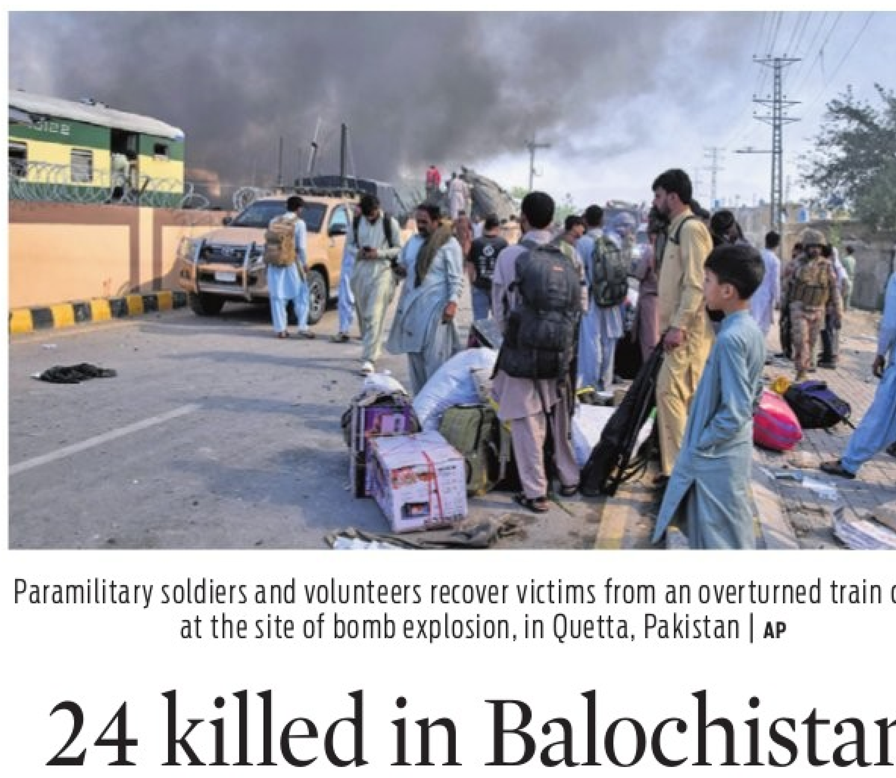
WAR WATCH

Donald Trump said on Sunday that he had told US negotiators “not to rush into a deal” with Iran, amid anticipation — and mounting criticism — of an agreement to end the war in the West Asia . “The negotiations are proceeding in an orderly and constructive manner, and I have informed my representatives not to rush into a deal in that time is on our side,” Trump wrote on his Truth Social account. “The Blockade will remain in full force and effect until an agreement is reached, certified, and signed.”

“Both sides must take their time and get it right,” Trump wrote in the same Truth Social post, while slamming the 2015 nuclear deal that former president Barack Obama agreed with Iran. “Our relationship with Iran is becoming a much more professional and productive one. They must understand, however, that they cannot develop or procure a Nuclear Weapon or Bomb,” Trump wrote. While the White House has not released aspects of the deal, Iran Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said Saturday on state television that the two sides were nearing a “a memorandum of understanding, a kind of framework agreement composed of 14 clauses,” in “a trend toward rapprochement.”

UK readies mine mission

Aboard the RFA Lyme Bay docked off the coast of Gibraltar, hundreds of British sailors are waiting to be deployed for a mine-clearing mission to the Strait of Hormuz that is still in doubt. Trump has lashed out at allies for not doing more to support the United States’ war effort in Iran, whose chokehold on the strait has crippled international shipping and sent energy prices soaring. In March, Trump told NATO allies to “go get your own oil” and secure the strait themselves. In Gibraltar, the UK’s Royal Navy is preparing for a Strait of Hormuz mission once a peace deal is reached. Trump said on Saturday that an Iran deal had been “largely negotiated” after talks with Israel and regional allies, but still needs finalising.



Paramilitary soldiers and volunteers recover victims from an overturned train coach at the site of bomb explosion, in Quetta, Pakistan | AP

24 killed in Balochistan train blast; banned BLA claims responsibility

QUETTA

A suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle near a railway track as a passenger train passed through the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta on Sunday, killing at least 24 people and wounding over 50 others, officials said.

The force of the explosion caused two of the train cars to overturn and catch fire, sending thick black smoke into the air, according to footage shared online.

The attack happened in an area where security forces are usually stationed, badly damaging several nearby buildings and smashing more than a dozen vehicles parked along the road, according to witnesses and images circulating on social media. Doctors at local hospitals said they had received the wounded, with 20 in critical condition. Three security officials told The Associated Press the bodies were transported to hospitals following the attack. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to be able to speak to the media.

The outlawed Baloch Liberation Army, or BLA, which demands independence from Pakistan’s central government, has claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement sent to reporters. The militant group said it targeted a train carrying security personnel. Quetta is the capital of insurgency-hit Balochistan province. The insurgents have frequently targeted security forces, government installations and civilians in the province and elsewhere in the country. *AP*

4 killed as Russia pounds Kyiv with hypersonic Oreshnik missile

KYIV

RUSSIA pounded Kyiv with a massive bombardment that killed four people, authorities said Sunday, with Moscow unleashing its nuclear-capable hypersonic Oreshnik missile in one of the largest barrages in the more-than-four-year war.

Multiple rounds of loud explosions were heard in the Ukrainian capital throughout the early hours of the morning, AFP journalists reported, as residents took shelter in underground stations.

Daylight revealed rescue workers extinguishing fires and sifting through debris of heavily damaged buildings -- houses, shopping centres, museums, theatres, schools and universities. Russian President Vladimir Putin had earlier threatened retaliation for Ukrainian strikes in Russian-occupied eastern Ukraine that killed 21 people in a vocational school.

In Kyiv, Sofia Melnychenko, 21, thought she was safe in the subway, “but then there were three loud explosions, and after the fourth one the ceiling in the metro started crumbling,” she told AFP. “There was complete chaos. Children started screaming, people were panicking,” she added. “It was a very frightening night.” The Ukrainian air force said the raid involved 600 drones and 90 missiles, of which 549 drones and 55 missiles were intercepted.

Kyiv has been grappling with an acute air defence missile deficit since the US-Israeli air campaign against Iran drove up demand for US-made Patriot rounds. nEuropean leaders reacted by saying the salvo showed Russia’s desperation. “Terror against civilians is not strength. It’s despair,” EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said on X. Macron called the strikes proof of Russia’s “dead end”, while Merz termed the Oreshnik use a “reckless escalation”. *AFP*

IN THE COURT OF THE XXTH ADDL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU
P & SC No.6/2026

Smt. KATHAKALI DHAR
W/o Gaurab Dhan
R/a A10, ITI Township, Dooravaninagar, Bangalore-560001. ......**Petitioner**
AND
NIL ......**Respondent**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner above named have filed the above petition under order 9, section 270, 276 & 300 of the Indian Succession Act of 1925, seeking for an order to grant of probate in the terms of Registered WILL dated 08/05/2024 as document No. KRI-3-00029-2024-25 in the office of the Sub Registrar, KR Puram, Bangalore executed by Sri Prabir Kumar Ghosh who died on 25-10-2024 who is father of Petitioner and to sell negotiate and/ for the deal with the same as shown in the schedule hereto without any impediment.

Interested parties are hereby warned to appear in court in person or by the pleader duly instructed **on the 12th day of June 2026 at 11.00 AM in forenoon** to show cause against the petitioner, if any, failing which, the court shall proceed further in the matter and placed exparte.

SUIT SCHEDULE PROPERTY
First Schedule referred to as above

All that piece and parcel of the land measuring about 18.62 acres more or less forming a part of several day numbers (as per detailed given below) in Mouza Chakgaria, JL No.26, under Police station Purba Jadavpur in the district of South 24 Paraganas presently known and numbered as municipal premises No.2052, Chakgaria Kolkata 700094, under Municipal No.109 within the limits of Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

Part II
(Complex Common Position)

All that the common areas, facilities, amenities and/or portions of the complex which are meant for beneficial common use and enjoyment of the Upohar Luxury Zone as also for the other areas/Zone of the Complex including the area building, equipment and plants and machinery of the Sewage treatment plant (STP), situated within the complex and also including the area on which the equipment, plant and/machinery etc of Calcutta electricity supply Corporation (CESC) area situated for Providing electricity to the complex and also including the area on which the sump of the complex is situated as also the land area, equipment etc of the electrical sub-station of the complex.

Fourth Schedule referred to as above (Description of the said Apartment/Unit)

All that residential Equipment situated within the said Premises/Upohar Luxury Zone together with the undivided and impartible proportionate share and/or interest in the land on which "Upohar Luxury Zone" is situated attributable to the covered area of the said residential apartment and/spare room and further together with the exclusive right to use the adjoining open terrace and together further with exclusive use of car parking spaces as per details given herein below.

1. Apartment including spare room bearing Number UPLO30103

2. Super Built area/ which area will mean the covered area of the said apartment plus proportionate share of the common area) of the said apartment: 2079 sq. ft, more or less.

3. Area of adjoining terrace/open space 861 Sq.ft.

4. Open car parking space number LP318 (135 sq.ft) each more or less.

5. Covered Car Parking space number LB127 (135 Sq.ft., each more or less) and the said Apartment and the open terrace and space room is also delineated in the map or plan annexed with this deed and bordered in colour "Red" thereon,

RS Plot No	Areas in Acres
54	1.29
63	2.41
64	0.60
65	1.12
68	0.42
73	2.70
74	0.90
75	2.80
76	2.88
77	3.30
Total	**18.62**

The Second Schedule Premises to as above
(The said premises/Upohar Luxury Zone)

All that demarcated land measuring about 11.454 acres more or less forming a part of municipal premises No.2052, Chakgaria, Kolkata 700094 within the limits of Kolkata Municipal Corporation forming a part of the said land which are morefully described in the first schedule written above wherein the "Upohar Luxury Zone" which consists of residential complex comprised of 11 numbers of towers/buildings namely, Prathama" "Dwitiya" "Tritiya" "Chaturthi", "Panchami" "Sashthi", "Saptami", "Ashtami", "Nabami", "Dashami" and Ekadashi (Upohar Luxury Zone) forming part of the housing complex "Upohar". The Condoville together with the covered areas of a portion of the basement situated below the Tennis court of Upohar Club Zone, Exclusively car marked and demarcated for parking of cars of Upohar Luxury Zone together with an undivided impartible proportionate share in the land attributable to the said parking space.

The schedule Referred to as above:
Part I
(The Uphar Luxury Zone Common Portions)

All that common areas, facilities, amenities and/or the portions of the Upohar Luxury Zone which are meant for beneficial common use and enjoyment of the Purchaser/Occupants of the Upohar Luxury Zone and which are not Car marked/.reserved for any specific person(s) or specific purpose(s) by the said developer.

Schedule II

Piece of land of area around 2160 Sq.ft plot No.1/1, in Block D of Bharat Co Operative Housing Society (registered under West Bengal Co Operative Societies Act 1973, bearing Reg. No.11 of 1982-83, having registered office at village and PO Sankrail within district of Howrah) within PS Sankrail, Dist: Howrah, Mouja Ram Chandrapur and more specifically marked appertaining to Daag No.109 New No. 118 of Khatian No.1208, New 1016/1 JL No.31 measuring 2160 Sq.ft a letter more or less and butted and bounded by on the North Plot No. D1/4, South Main Road, East Plot No.D1/2, west Road.

Given under my hand & Seal of the Court this **19th day of May 2026**

By order of the court
Senior Sheristadar
City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Smt. Sucheta Majumdar Burman & Associates, Advocates
Office at No.97/2D, Krishna Shine Building, MTK Reddy Complex, Above SBI Bank First Floor, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560037.

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POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, IIFL-HFL, under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) ("said Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("said Rules") issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower/co-borrower, guarantors, mortgagors to repay the amount, details of which are mentioned in the table below.

And whereas subsequently, IIFL-HFL has vide Assignment Agreement dated 29-Dec-2025 assigned all its rights, title, interest and benefits in respect of the debts due and payable by the borrower/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) arising out of the facilities advanced by IIFL-HFL, Bank to borrower/ guarantor(s) along with the underlying Immovable Property to Phoenix Arc Limited (Formerly known as "Phoenix ARC Private Limited") acting in its capacity as Trustee of Phoenix Trust - FY 26-14 ("Phoenix") for the benefit of the holders of Security Receipts. Therefore, in view of the said assignment, Phoenix now stands substituted in the place of IIFL-HFL and Phoenix shall be entitled to institute/continue all and any proceedings against the borrower/ guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) and to enforce the rights and benefits under the financial documents including the enforcement of guarantee and security interest executed and created by the borrower/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) for the financial facilities availed by them.

The borrower/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the said amounts, notice is hereby given to the borrower/ guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Phoenix has taken possession of the underlying Immovable Property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Sub-Section (4) of Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on "AS IS WHERE IS & WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" on the date mentioned below.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)	Description of the Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
Mr. Praveen Awasthi Mrs. Sonal Awasthi Mrs. Sonal Awasthi **(Prospect No 785832)**	All that piece and parcel of Flat No.C0703, Seventh Floor, Tower - 03 (C), GM Global Techies Town, Thirupalya Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, Karnataka - 562106 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Land_Area, Carpet_Area, Super_Built_Up_Area Property Area: 230.00, 920.00, 1150.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report	**Rs.3830027/-** Rupees Thirty Eight Lakh Thirty Thousand Twenty Seven Only	08-10-2025	21-05-2026
Mr. Abdul Jameel Mrs. Humaira Kauser **(Prospect No 851438)**	All that piece and parcel of A3-07-18, Seventh Floor, Gm Ambitious Enclave , Maragondanahalli Village, Jigani, Hobli, Anekal, Bagalore, Karnataka, 560068 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Super_ Built_Up_Area, Carpet Area Property Area: 500.00, 325.00 Bounded By: North: As per the Title Documents and Technical Report South: As per the Title Documents and Technical Report East: As per the Title Documents and Technical Report West: As per the Title Documents and Technical Report	**Rs.1428978/-** Rupees Fourteen Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Eight Only	09-11-2025	21-05-2026
Mrs. Monica Das Mr. Rajesh Kumar R **(Prospect No 861009)**	All that piece and parcel of A1-06-26 6th floor, block A1 GM Ambitious Enclave, Maragondanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, Karnataka - 562106 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Land_Area, Super_ Built_Up_Area, Carpet Area Property Area: 100.00, 500.00, 325.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report	**Rs.1788409/-** Rupees Seventeen Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Nine Only	09-10-2025	21-05-2026
Mr. Abdul Junaid Mrs. Praveen Taj **(Prospect No 864239)**	All that piece and parcel of Flat No.a3-08-18, Eight Floor, A3 Block, Gm Ambitious Enclave, Maragondanahalli Village, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560068 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Carpet_Area, Super_Built_Up_Area Property Area: 325.00, 500.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report	**Rs.1699422/-** Rupees Sixteen Lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Two Only	10-10-2025	21-05-2026
Mr. Kalaiselvam Krishnamoorthy Mrs. Bharathipriya **(Prospect No 876485)**	All that piece and parcel of NO53/1, A2.04.01, GM Ambitious Enclave, Maragondanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, Bangalore, Banglore, Karnataka 560004, Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Carpet_Area, Super_Built_Up_Area Property Area: 536.00, 825.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report. East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report. West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report.	**Rs.2050507/-** Rupees Twenty Lakh Fifty Thousand Five Hundred Seven Only	10-10-2025	21-05-2026
Mrs. Shwethalatha Bangalore Muniraju Mr. Mahesh Ramaiah **(Prospect No IL10005612)**	All that piece and parcel of Flat No C0411 4th Floor Tower 3© Gm Global Techi, Thirupalya Village Jigani Hobli Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Dist, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560100 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Land_Area, Carpet_Area, Super_Built_Up_Area Property Area: 200.00, 700.00, 1000.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report	**Rs.1684347/-** Rupees Sixteen Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Three Hundred Forty Seven Only	10-10-2025	21-05-2026
Mr. Nandan N Mirajkar Mrs. Nirmala N Mirajkar **(Prospect No IL10019833)**	All that piece and parcel of B1-05-07, 5th Floor, Block B1, Gm Ambitious Enclave, Maragondanahalli Village, Jigani, Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, Karnataka, India, 560100 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Land_Area, Carpet_Area, Super_Built_Up_Area Property Area: 198.00, 643.00, 990.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Reports South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Reports East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Reports West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Reports	**Rs.2909192.96/-** Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Nine Thousand One Hundred Ninety Two Only	04-12-2025	21-05-2026
Mr. Subhas Chandra Dutta Mrs. Itishree Dutta **(Prospect No IL10020056)**	All that piece and parcel of NO.B1-08-18 8th Floor Block B1 Gm Ambitious Enclav, Thirupalya, Maragondanaghalli and Hulimangala vill, Jigani hobli, anekal taluk Bangalore, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560099 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Land_Area, Carpet_Area, Super_Built_Up_Area Property Area: 165.00, 536.00, 825.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report	**Rs.3123100/-** Rupees Thirty One Lakh Twenty Three Thousand One Hundred Only	08-10-2025	21-05-2026
Mr. Pandurang Sudam Ghundare Mrs. Ghundare Vaishali P **(Prospect No IL10022364)**	All that piece and parcel of NO. B2-09-08 9th Floor Block B2 Gm Ambitious Encla, Thirupalya, Maragondanaghalli and Hulimangala vill, Jigani hobli, anekal taluk Bangalore, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560100 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Carpet_Area, Super_Built_Up_Area Property Area: 643.00, 990.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report. West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report	**Rs.3400712/-** Rupees Thirty Four Lakh Seven Hundred Twelve Only	08-10-2025	21-05-2026
Mr. Abinash Patnaik Mrs. Pratima Patnaik **(Prospect No IL10024175)**	All that piece and parcel of B1-02-18, GM Global Techies Town Thirupalya, Maragondanag, Attibele Hobli Anekal Taluk Bangalore, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560100 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Carpet_Area, Super_Built_Up_Area Property Area: 536.00, 825.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report	**Rs.1974001/-** Rupees Nineteen Lakh Seventy Four Thousand One Only	10-10-2025	21-05-2026
Mr. Samrat Mukherjee Mrs. Anita Mukherjee **(Prospect No IL10024341)**	All that piece and parcel of FLAT NO 07 6th Floor A2 Block Gm Ambitious Enclave, Thirupalya, Maragondanaghalli and Hulimangala vill, Jigani hobli, anekal taluk Bangalore, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560100 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Land_Area, Carpet_Area, Super_Built_Up_Area Property Area: 154.00, 500.00, 770.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report. East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report. West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report.	**Rs.2292058/-** Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Ninety Two Thousand Fifty Eight Only	10-10-2025	21-05-2026
Mr. Dinesh C S Mrs. Neethu M E **(Prospect No IL10024437)**	All that piece and parcel of FLAT NO A2-06-23 6th Floor A2 Block Gm Ambitious E, Thirupalya, Maragondanaghalli and Hulimangala vill, Jigani hobli, anekal taluk Bangalore, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560100 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Land_Area, Carpet_Area, Super_Built_Up_Area Property Area: 198.00, 643.00, 990.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report	**Rs.3153367/-** Rupees Thirty One Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Seven Only	08-10-2025	21-05-2026
Miss. Saon Bhakta Mr. Subhash Chandra Bhakta Mrs. Minati Bhakta **(Prospect No IL10028737)**	All that piece and parcel of FLAT NO C-03-08, Tower C, Gm Ambitious Encl, Maragondanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli,, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560099 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Land_Area, Carpet_Area, Super_Built_Up_Area Property Area: 198.00, 643.00, 990.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report	**Rs.2190629/-** Rupees Twenty One Lakh Ninety Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Nine Only	10-10-2025	21-05-2026
Mr. Kiran Samuel Utukuri Mrs. Lavanya Kiran Utukuri **(Prospect No IL10037861)**	All that piece and parcel of Flat No 28, 15 Floor Tower A3 Gm Ambitious Enclave, Maragondanahalli Village Jigani Hobli, Jigani Hobl, Anekal Taluk Bangalore, Bangalore, Karnataka, Indi, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560100 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Carpet_Area, Super_Built_Up_Area Property Area: 325.00, 500.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report. West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report	**Rs.1380952/-** Rupees Thirteen Lakh Eighty Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Two Only	10-10-2025	21-05-2026
Mr. Naveen Prakash Patil Mr. Prakash Patil Mrs. Hema Patil **(Prospect No IL10038442)**	All that piece and parcel of Flat No 18 , 9th Floor , A2 Tower Gm Ambitious Enc, Maragondanahalli Village Jigani Hobli, Jigani Hobli Anekal Taluk Bangalore, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560100 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Carpet_Area, Super_Built_Up_Area Property Area: 325.00, 500.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report. West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report.	**Rs.1702279/-** Rupees Seventeen Lakh Two Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Nine Only	10-10-2025	21-05-2026
Mr. Stanley Jones Paul Kore Mrs. Shilpa Jairam Naidu **(Prospect No IL10046929)**	All that piece and parcel of Flat No 06, 6th Floor B1 Tower Gm Ambitious Enclav, Maragondanahalli Village Jigani Hobli, Maragondanahalli Village Jigani Hobli, Bangalore, Karnataka -560100 Area Admeasuring (in Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Carpet_Area, Super_Built_Up_Area Property Area: 710.00, 990.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report. East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report.	**Rs.3230365/-** Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Thirty Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Five Only	08-10-2025	21-05-2026
Mr. Abdul Wahab Mrs. Qurath Zama **(Prospect No IL10069170)**	All that piece and parcel of A2-07-19, Floor No. 7, Tower A2, Gm Orchid Enclave, Sy No 25/3 & 3/1 Gollahalli Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore 560022 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Saleable_Area, Carpet_Area Property Area: 350.00, 228.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report	**Rs.466908/-** Rupees Four Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Eight Only	06-11-2025	21-05-2026
Mr. Tiptur Shreenivasa Arjun Mahalakshmi Kum Kum Stores Mrs. Balakrishna Sujatha **(Prospect No IL10117553)**	All that piece and parcel of A1830, Floor No. 18, T1A, TOWER-1A, Sy.Nos.231, 232, 232, New No.233, 281, 282, 284, New No.2853014, New 3034, 283, New 286, 293, 307, 307, New 3036307, New 3037, 308, 309, 3010, 3011, 3012, 3012, New 30323013 of Thirupalya Village, Sy. Nos.47, 48, Maragondanahalli Village, Sy.No.273 of Hulimangala Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, District, Karnataka-560099 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Saleable_Area, Carpet_Area Property Area: 1000.00, 700.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report	**Rs.4482800/-** Rupees Forty Four Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Only	08-10-2025	21-05-2026
Mr. Jalal Aqiburrahman Mrs. Tamanna Fathima **(Prospect No IL10122135)**	All that piece and parcel of A2318, Floor No. 23, T1A, TOWER-1A, Sy.Nos.231, 232, 232, New No.233, 281, 282, 284, New No.2853014, New 3034, 283, New 286, 293, 307, 307, New 3036307, New 3037, 308, 309, 3010, 3011, 3012, 3012, New 30323013 of Thirupalya Village, Sy. Nos.47, 48, Maragondanahalli Village, Sy.No.273 of Hulimangala Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, District, Karnataka-560099 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Saleable_Area, Carpet_Area Property Area: 1150.00, 805.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report	**Rs.5264687/-** Rupees Fifty Two Lakh Sixty Four Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Seven Only	08-10-2025	21-05-2026
Mr. Sivaramakrishnan Mrs. Raghupathy Kanchana **(Prospect No IL10130197)**	All that piece and parcel of A2139, Floor No. 21, T1A, TOWER-1A, Sy.Nos.231, 232, 232, New No.233, 281, 282, 284, New No.2853014, New 3034, 283, New 286, 293, 307, 307, New 3036307, New 3037, 308, 309, 3010, 3011, 3012, 3012, New 30323013 of Thirupalya Village, Sy. Nos.47, 48, Maragondanahalli Village, Sy.No.273 of Hulimangala Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, District Karnataka-560099 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Saleable_Area, Carpet_Area Property Area: 950.00, 665.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report	**Rs.4197570/-** Rupees Forty One Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Only	08-10-2025	21-05-2026
Mr. Navneet Kumar Jha Mrs. Neha Kumari Singh **(Prospect No IL10138778)**	All that piece and parcel of A2116, Floor No. 21, T1A, TOWER-1A, Sy.Nos.231, 232, 232, New No.233, 281, 282, 284, New No.2853014, New 3034, 283, New 286, 293, 307, 307, New 3036307, New 3037, 308, 309, 3010, 3011, 3012, 3012, New 30323013 of Thirupalya Village, Sy. Nos.47, 48, Maragondanahalli Village, Sy.No.273 of Hulimangala Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, District, Karnataka-560099 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Saleable_Area, Carpet_Area Property Area: 1000.00, 700.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report	**Rs.4332119/-** Rupees Forty Three Lakh Thirty Two Thousand One Hundred Nineteen Only	08-10-2025	21-05-2026
Mr. Vasantha Padmanabhan Sathyanarayana Mrs. Venkat Narayan Manju **(Prospect No IL10143662)**	All that piece and parcel of A2628, Floor No. 26, T1A, TOWER-1A, SyNos.231 232 232NewNo.233 281 282 284NewNo.2853014New3034 283New286 293 307 307New3036307New3037 308 309 3010 3011 3012 3012New30323013 of Thirupalya Village SyNos.47 48 Maragondanahalli Village SyNo.273 of Hulimangala Village Jigani Hobli Anekal Taluka , , District -Bangalore, Karnataka-560105 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Area_Admeasuring, Carpet_Area Property Area: 1750.00, 1225.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report	**Rs.7480064/-** Rupees Seventy Four Lakh Eighty Thousand Sixty Four Only	07-10-2025	21-05-2026
Mr. Abhaykumar Chandrakishor Mishra Mr. Chandrakishore Mishra Mrs. Malati Mishra **(Prospect No IL10307217)**	All that piece and parcel of No. A21501, Floor No. 15, Tower-A2, GM Ambitious Enclave, Sy.No.531, 532, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, of Maragondanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Bangalore, Karnataka-560099 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Saleable_Area, Carpet_Area Property Area: 825.00, 536.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Reportas Per The Title Documents And Technical Report	**Rs.4124163/-** Rupees Forty One Lakh Twenty Four Thousand One Hundred Sixty Three Only	09-10-2025	21-05-2026
Mr. Chandrakishor Mishra Mr. Abhaykumar Chandrakishor Mishra Mrs. Malti Mishra **(Prospect No IL10311312)**	All that piece and parcel of No. A11516, Floor No. 15, Tower-A1, GM Ambitious Enclave, Sy.No.531, 532, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545 of Maragondanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Bangalore, Karnataka-560099 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Saleable_Area, Carpet_Area Property Area: 825.00, 536.00 Bounded By: North: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report South: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report East: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report West: As Per The Title Documents And Technical Report	Rs.3920583/- Rupees Thirty Nine Lakh Twenty Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Three Only	09-10-2025	21-05-2026

The borrower/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned that Phoenix is in the lawful possession of the Immovable Property mentioned above and under Section 13(13) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, the borrower/ guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) or any person whatsoever, shall after receipt of this notice not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise deal with/ alienate the Immovable Property, without prior written consent of Phoenix and any dealings with the Immovable Property will be subject to the charge of Phoenix for the amount as mentioned above along with future interest at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges etc.

The borrowers'/guarantors'/mortgagors' attention is invited to the provisions of the Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of the said Act, in respect of time available to redeem the above-mentioned Immovable Property

PLACE : BANGALORE | DATE : 25.05.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, Phoenix ARC Limited (In capacity as Trustee)**

Phoenix ARC Limited (Formerly known as ‘Phoenix ARC Private Limited’)
CIN No.-U67190MH2007PLC168303 Website: www.phoenixarc.co.in
Registered Office: 3rd Floor, Wallace Towers, 139/140/B/1, Crossing of Sahar Road and Western Express Highway, Vile Parle East, Mumbai, Maharashtra, 400057. • Tel: +91 02268492450.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **Bhargav Ram Reddy Peyyala,** S/o Late Lakshmipathi Reddy Peyyala, residing at No. 31, 3rd Main Road, Amarjyothi Layout, Nagashettihalli, Sanjaynagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560094, hereby declare that in my previous passport bearing No. N4400546, my father’s name was erroneously mentioned as **“LAKSHMI PATI REDDY PEYYALA”** instead of **“LAKSHMIPATHI REDDY PEYYALA”.**

I hereby declare that **“LAKSHMI PATI REDDY PEYYALA”** and **“LAKSHMIPATHI REDDY PEYYALA”** refer to one and the same person. Vide affidavit dated 22/05/2026 sworn before Advocate & Notary C.N. Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

Sd/-
Bhargav Ram Reddy Peyyala

WESTERN RAILWAY
ENGAGEMENT OF PROJECT GENERAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Deputy Chief Engineer (C) Works & P. Way, Western Railway, 1st floor, Station Building, Churchgate, Mumbai-400 020 invites **E-Tender Notice No: CAO/C/CCG/PGMS/WR/01. Name of work:** Engagement of Project General Management Services (PGMS) for New Line, Doubling, Gauge Conversion, Electrification and other important works etc. in Construction Organization under CAO/C/Churchgate of Western Railway for a period of 60 months. **NIT Cost:** ₹ 451,45,34,400/-. **Bid Security:** ₹ 9,02,90,700/-. **Bidding start date:** 16.06.2026. **Bid Submission Closing:** On 30.06.2026 at 15:00 Hrs. **Tender Document Opening:** On 30.06.2026 at 15:30 Hrs. For further details please visit our website **www.ireps.gov.in** 0150

Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified that my client Sri. Korrapati Sai Kumar is the sole and absolute owner of the schedule Property.

The Original Sale Deed dated 05.07.2023 registered on 05.07.2023 as Document No. BDH-1-02538-2023-24, in the office of Sub-registrar, Bidarahalli in respect of Vacant Property No. 159, situated at Hagaduru Village, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, and measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 30 feet, in all measuring 1200 Sq. feet is misplaced/lost by client. In this connection, a police complaint has been lodged on 20.05.2026 vide Acknowledgement of Police Complaint vide Lost Report No. 2213208/2026.

Any Person finds the document may handover the same to the undersigned within 15 days from this day. If the said document is misused by anybody, it shall not be binding on our client and he/she shall not be binding on our client and he/she shall be doing so at him/their own costs and risks.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the peace and parcel of the immovable property bearing BBMP SL/Katha No. 101/159, Property No. 159, situated at Hagaduru Village, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, Now within the jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore, and measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 30 feet, in all measuring 1200 Sq. feet, and bounded on the:

East by : Property belongs to Smt. Puttamma,
West by : Government Anganavadi School,
North by : Road,
South by : Private Property.

Aswath B, Advocate
#36 (317/C), 9th A Main, 40th Cross, 5th Block, Jayanagara Bangalore -560041
Contact No: 9901944099
E-mail: aswath.bb@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client proposes to purchase the Schedule Property from the owner Mr. VENKATESH V, Aged about 52 Years, S/o. Mr. Venkatachala, Resident of No.589, "HARISH NILAYA", Ayyappa Layout, Mallasandra, T. Dasrahalli Post, Bengaluru - 560 057 who has represented that he is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property which is his self acquired property.

Any person or persons having any manner of right, title or interest in the Schedule Property or objections for the proposed sale may lodge the same with the undersigned along with the supporting legal documents within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice failing which, our client shall complete the sale transaction. Any Claims/Objections received beyond the stipulated period will not be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Site No.4, Assessment No. 53, Muneshwara Block, Mallasandra, Bangalore within the Revenue Administrative Jurisdiction of Ward No. 13, Mallasandra, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike together with the building thereon comprising of Ground Floor and First Floor with water, light and sanitation and including all rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto and site measuring:

EAST TO WEST : 50 Feet or 15.23 Meters
NORTH TO SOUTH : 34 Feet or 10.36 Meters
TOTAL AREA : 1,700 Feet or 157.933 Square Meters

and bounded as follows : **EAST BY :** Site No.5, **WEST BY :** 25 Feet Road, **NORTH BY :** Site No. 115, **SOUTH BY :** 20 Feet Road.

Mr. N. JAIPRAKASH RAO
Mrs. VEENA RAO, Mr. N. ASHOK KUMAR
Ms. SANJANA JAYPEE, Advocates
"JAYPEE ASSOCIATES", LAW FIRM,
No. 39, 1st Cross, Malleswaram,
BENGALURU-560 003.
Phone No. : 080-2356360, 23468742
Mobile : 9449502430
E-mail: contact.jaypee1234.com
Bangalore, Date : 24.05.2026

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
ZONAL OFFICE-BENGALURU
No 1/1 2nd Floor, Jeevan Sampige, 2nd Main Road, Sampige Road, Malleswaram, Bengaluru – 560 003

LIMITED TENDER – RENOVATION WORKS (INTERIOR, ELECTRICAL & AC) AT ECOSYSTEM HUB, KORAMANGALA, BENGALURU

Union Bank of India is floating limited tenders for selection of vendors for Interior, Electrical, and Air Conditioning works at the Ecosystem Hub, Koramangala, Bengaluru.

: TIME SCHEDULE :

Stage	Date
Date of uploading in bank’s portal	25.05.2026
Start Date/ Time for Submission of Tenders	25.05.2026 – 11.00AM
Last Date / Time for Submission of Tenders	09.06.2026 – 03.00 PM
Opening of Tenders	09.06.2026 – 04.00 PM

Contact Persons:

1) **Mr. Sumit Ranjan**
Assistant General Manager
Mob No. 9450441744
sumit.ranjan@unionbankofindia.bank.in

2) **Mr. Dixon David**
Senior Manager
Mob No. 9840168404
david.dixon@unionbankofindia.bank.in

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Hindu Religious Charitable Endowments
Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Temple, Tiruttani, Thiruvallur District - 631 209
Telephone :044-27885247. E-Mail: www.tiruttanigaimurugan@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice
R.c.no.571/2026/C1/Date : 23.05.2026

License to Collect Tonsured hair & License to Sell Prasadam for Fasali 1436 Arulmigu Subramanya Swamy Temple, Tiruttani By E-Tender Advertisement.

S.No	Name of the License & Period	E-Deposit sum in Rupees
1)	License to collect tonsured hair from 01.07.2026 to 30.06.2027	Rs.3,40,000/- (Rupees Three Lakhs fourty thousand only)
2)	License to sell Prasadam from 01.07.2026 to 30.06.2027	Rs.3,52,000/- (Rupees Three Lakhs fifty Two thousand only)

1) Those who want to participate in the e-tender for the above two items, to be conducted in **http://tntenders.gov.in/** bidders can register themselves. 2) Tenderer should quote tender amount with 18% of GST. 3) Uploading of Qualification documents by bidder Date : **26.05.2026** to **29.06.2026** Time **01.00 PM.** 4) E- Tender Date : **29.06.2026** Time **3.00 PM.** 5) Conditions for this License upload in **http://tntenders.gov.in/.** For details of clarifications- contact tntenders by dialing 0120-4001 002, 0120-4001 005, 0120- 4493395, 044-25679739 and emai id: **support-eproc@nic.in.** 6) Temple contact numbers: 044-27885247.

K.Ramani B.A.B.L., **Joint Commissioner / Executive officer**
S.Sridharan **Chairman Board of Trustte**

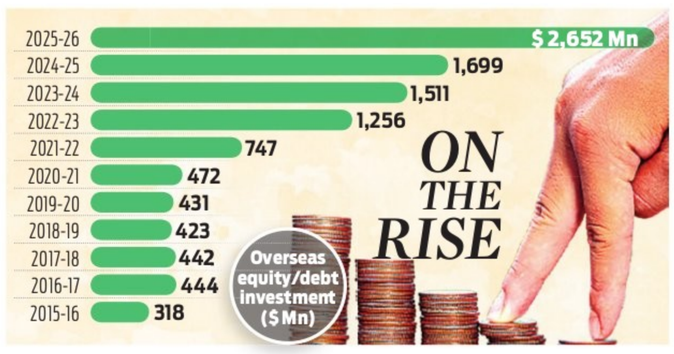
DIPR/ 1943 /TENDER/2026 **Trustee: V.Sureshbabu, G.Usharavi, G.Mohanan, M.Nagan**

57% employers believe companies are compromising on background verification to speed up hiring, as per staffing and HR solutions provider Genius HRTech

Global investments via LRS surge in FY26

RBI data suggests investors are stepping up overseas allocations through both equity and debt investments

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi



WITH Indian equity markets entering a prolonged phase of tepid growth, investors are increasingly looking overseas to diversify their portfolios. Latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) suggest that investors are stepping up overseas allocations through both equity and debt investments.

As per RBI data, overseas equity and debt investments under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) rose 56% in FY26 to $2.65 billion from $1.7 billion in the previous financial year. Over the past five years, overseas equity and debt investments under the LRS have surged 5.6 times, while over past decade they have risen 8.3 times. Under the LRS framework, resident individuals, including minors, are allowed to remit up to $250,000 per financial year outside India for permissible current or capital account transactions.

Indian equity markets have underperformed several global peers over the past two-three years. In the past one year, Indian markets have been among the few major markets to deliver negative returns. In contrast, markets such as the US, China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan have generated returns ranging from 20% to 200%. The Nifty50 and BSE Sensex have delivered negative returns of 5% and 7%, respectively, over the past year.

Persistent rupee depreciation over the last few years has also strengthened the case for overseas investing.

As per Swarup Mohanty, vice-chairman and CEO of Mirae Asset Investment Managers, global diversification makes strategic sense. "India represents 3–3.5% of global equity markets. Many world-leading businesses and sectors are still not available in India at scale. Currency diversification also matters," he said, adding that rupee has historically depreciated gradually over time and owning assets denominated in foreign currencies can provide portfolio balance.

Indian investors can access overseas markets directly via international brokerages or indirectly through mutual funds, including both active and passive schemes. One advantage of investing globally via Indian MFs is that such investments are not counted within the LRS remittance limit of $250,000 a year. However, MFs face regulatory caps on overseas investments. The Sebi permits MFs to make overseas investments of up to $1 billion per fund house within an industry limit of $7 billion. The industry-wide overseas investment limit prescribed by the RBI has already been fully utilised.

A new and increasingly popular route for Indians looking to invest globally is via GIFT City, India's global financial services centre. The framework allows resident Indians to access foreign assets like overseas stocks, bonds and MFs via Indian brokers under what is known as the Outbound GIFT City route. Since the mechanism operates within the Indian regulatory ecosystem, it offers a relatively simpler compliance structure compared with direct overseas investing. In addition, investments through GIFT City are considered tax-efficient.

IN CONVERSATION

PUNEET CHHATWAL
Chief executive officer, Indian Hotels Company

'All our new businesses will have CAGR of 25%, EBITDA margin of 35%'

IN an interaction with **Benn Kochuveedan** of TNIE, Indian Hotels Company (IHCL) chief executive **Puneet Chhatwal**, tells it will open 60 new hotels in FY27, adding nearly 6,000 keys under various brands, including homestays. During FY26, IHCL, which owns Taj Hotels, added three new brands, taking the total to 14 and signed a record 250 hotels, expanding the portfolio to 630 hotels, with an industry-leading pipeline of 255 hotels. Edited **excerpts**:

What's your outlook for the current fiscal as the industry is hit by the Gulf war?
Under our strategy for 2030 outlined eight years ago, we've been doing very well. There is growth on all fronts. There is growth of talent, which means growth of our people. There is growth in our revenue and profit, and moreover there is growth in our margins. And of course, there is growth in the way we cover the market. We cover India across 250 plus locations.

We've been consistently delivering on overall growth front. We've guided that our all new businesses will have a CAGR of 25% and the combined Ebita margin of 35% plus. Between FY23 and FY26 we've delivered a double-digit CAGR across all metrics - revenue grew 19%, operating income rose 21% and net income expanded 28%. The Taj was almost 100% of our business around 15 years ago. But there are other verticals which have evolved and are getting into double digits in topline share now. So the guidance set we had given eight years ago for 2030 of doubling our enterprise level revenue is on track.

From our first offering — the iconic hotel Taj Mahal Palace in 1903- and for the next 70 years IHCL was just one hotel company, today we've a portfolio of 630 hotels and will have 700 by 2030.

We are looking at anything around 6,000 keys under various brands, including our homestays, across 60 properties. Our most exciting opening is round the corner is the Frankfurt hotel very soon, which due to some unavoidable reasons is delayed by six weeks Germany

Your focus has been on the margin expansion front..
Yes, while we've been maintaining around 35% operating margin for some years now, our guidance for return on capital employed is 20%.

And we feel very proud that despite all hindrances, despite the West Asia wars and despite many operational difficulties, we made it good. If you actually look at the past 12 months, everything went wrong that could have gone wrong every month. But still, the sector demonstrated resilience, and we being the largest, benefitted the most.

I don't see any change to this optimism because I think the golden era of tourism and hospitality has started in the country. This is one of the most fascinating sectors given it has the highest job multiplier effect. Spiritual tourism is on the rise and so are medical, experiential and yoga tourism.

How confident are you to tide over the crisis which is more frequent than in the past?
I remain very confident because I don't expect any slowdown happening. There will be bumps, there will be headwinds that will come in a 365-day period. But the bounce back will be always faster, whether it's here or outside, the sector has demonstrated very strongly post-Covid. That is the first answer.

Secondly, should there be some drop in the existing business, we are adding on an organic basis alone--and am not counting here inorganic growth - anywhere between 55 and 60 hotels this year, last year we opened 30 and in the year also a similar number was added and all these add up to a good 630 properties now.

How many keys you will be adding across how many properties?
We are looking at anything around 6,000 keys under various brands, including our homestays, across 60 properties. Our most exciting opening is round the corner is the Frankfurt hotel very soon, which due to some unavoidable reasons is delayed by six weeks Germany.

MONEY-WISE

FINANCIAL WORRIES FOR COMMON MAN

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

THE biggest financial worries for the common man in India right now boil down to a mix of immediate pressures and deep structural problems. Headline inflation is low (around 3-3.5% CPI recently), but that doesn't reflect the daily reality for most households.

Real purchasing power feels squeezed, debt is piling up, and global shocks are hitting the wallet hard. Also theequitity market is going nowhere – thus there is very little wealth effect!

Here are the top financial matters impacting everyday Indians today, based on recent economic data, news, and public sentiment:

Household Debt & EMI Trap

- India's household debt has crossed 41% of GDP, with a large chunk going toward consumption. People are financing phones, bikes, cars, holidays, sarees, and even daily needs via credit.
- **Average loans:** Home ₹33 lakh, car ₹8.4 lakh, bike ₹90k. Many spend 40%+ of income on EMIs, leaving little buffer for emergencies.

People earning ₹70,000 per month are willing to buy a phone for ₹1.5L

This means such families are susceptible to - One job loss, medical issue, or business slowdown can wipe out years of progress. They live paycheque to pay-cheque and have no money for emergencies.

Recent Fuel Price Hikes –I guess there is more to come!

Petrol and diesel prices jumped in mid-May 2026 (first major hike in years) after global crude crossed $100/barrel. This leads to higher transport costs, cab fares, goods movement, and even some food items.

Cost of Living Squeeze

- **Housing/Rent:** Property prices up 45-50% in the last decade while incomes haven't kept pace. Homeownership feels impossible for many first-time buyers. Rents in cities are a big monthly burden.
- **Healthcare:** Medical inflation at ~14%. A single hospitalization can derail finances.
- Education: High fees for good schools/colleges; parents delay or stretch budgets.
- **Food/groceries:** Headline food inflation is moderate, but volatile spikes) still hurt weekly budgets.
- **Overall:** Middle-class families report "salary growing but wealth shrinking" — a ₹1.5 lakh monthly salary today feels like old pay due to these pressures. Many are delaying big purchases (cars, vacations) or cutting back.

Job Insecurity & Stagnant Real Wages

- Unemployment hovers around 5-7% . Youth/graduate unemployment is much higher.
- Salary hikes are often 5-7% or negligible, not matching effective cost increases. White-collar/IT jobs face AI/automation threats; many feel "job quality" is poor.
- Small businesses report drops in sales due to cautious spending.

MONEY MATTERS

HOW SEBI PLANS TO NUDGE YOUR INVESTMENTS

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

FEW people can disagree that the mutual fund industry in India is preventing a dramatic collapse in share prices. Foreigners have dumped Indian shares relentlessly in 2026. Most of the supply of shares was absorbed by the domestic institutional investors. Your saving and investing habits are helping protect equity markets from a potentially vicious selloff. The appeal of major tech companies like Nvidia and Apple, and chip makers in Korea, Taiwan and China, is drawing foreigners away. That is reflected in the major underperformance of the Nifty 50 compared with the Korean and Taiwanese benchmark indices this year.

A new Securities and Exchange Board of India consultation paper published last week proposes to strengthen the wall of your money by letting your employer deduct money from your salary every month into MF schemes of your choice. That is a major step towards nudging you to invest more via an automated process. It is similar to the way money is deducted from your account and deposited into your provident fund account. Sebi seems enthused by the shift in household allocation away from physical assets like real estate and gold towards financial assets like equity, debt, and other asset classes, either directly or through mutual funds.

In another working paper published last week, the amount of household contribution towards financial assets was revised upwards to ₹6.91 lakh crore for the financial year ended 2024-25. It is more than the earlier estimate of ₹5.43 lakh crore. The revised figure used actual data from depositories, stock exchanges, and the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).

It now captures secondary market transactions when you buy or sell shares on the NSE or the BSE, preferential equity allotments, private debt placements, and newer instruments like REITs and InvITs. It also, for the first time, includes savings by Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households — trusts, NGOs, societies — as part of the household sector.

We have a sense of the wall of household savings that is protecting Indian equity markets. As per Sebi's working paper, household wealth in the securities markets stood at ₹141 lakh crore as of March 2025. Equity holdings are close to ₹90 lakh crore, or nearly $1 trillion.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

Sebi's initiative requires further boost from the government. If the salaried agree to use the automated method for channelling their personal investments in a structured way, the government can offer incentives to encourage this approach. It is a recognition of the role your savings play in nation-building by providing capital for growth. The government needs this more than you do, as stable avenues of capital are key to a fast-growing economy like India's.

The other aspect of the consultation paper is that you can automate MF investments to benefit your favourite charity. Household equity assets have jumped significantly, creating wealth for a few people. Even today, only 5% of people benefit directly or indirectly from equity assets. If those who have accumulated career or generational wealth have a transparent avenue to do good, there is no reason to redistribute it to those in need.

Sebi's plan makes financial planning simple for you. As a salaried individual, you need to identify MF schemes that suit you with the help of a professional advisor. You do not have to stress much about long-term savings. Before you enable the automated investments, you may want to ensure that you have enough money for an emergency fund. There is no lock-in talked about in this proposal. If you are saving ₹10,000 every month through this process, you can allocate the amount for systematic investments through MFs based on your risk appetite. With this move, Sebi is nudging your hard-earned money toward serious wealth.

'Staying outside RCEP failed to curb China reliance'

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

DBS economist backs easing Chinese investments
Taimur Baig, Chief Economist and managing director at DBS Bank, backs India's recent move to ease certain restrictions under Press Note 3, which had tightened scrutiny on investments from neighbouring countries after the India-China border tensions in 2020

INDIA'S decision to stay out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) may have cost it access to the world's most critical supply chains without reducing dependence on Chinese imports, according to Taimur Baig, Chief Economist and managing director at DBS Bank.

Baig told TNIE that fears of Chinese dumping likely influenced India's decision to opt out of the Asia-Pacific trade bloc, but argued that the strategy has not delivered the intended outcome. "Remaining outside RCEP has not reduced India's dependency on imports from China in a meaningful manner," Baig said, adding that India lost out on export opportunities linked to East Asia's electronics manufacturing boom.

"I think that concerns about Chinese products flooding Indian markets may have been a part of India's decision not to be a part of RCEP. That was a strategic mistake, as the fear of dumping got in the way of being part of the world's most critical supply chain," he said. The remarks come at a time when India is pursuing multiple bilateral trade agreements and reconsidering aspects of its trade strategy amid global supply chain realignments, geopolitical tensions and the ongoing AI-led electronics supercycle.

Baig noted that East Asian electronics producers are witnessing a surge in exports driven by rising demand linked to artificial intelligence technologies, and India could have benefited significantly had it been part of RCEP. "Today, East Asia's electronics producers are seeing a sharp rise in exports due to the AI-wave driven super cycle; India could have been a beneficiary of that wave if it was inside RCEP," he said.

India withdrew from RCEP negotiations in 2019 citing concerns over market access, trade imbalances and the risk of cheap imports, mainly from China. However, Baig argued that India's trade deficit with China remains substantial despite staying outside the bloc.

"The downside consideration that got in the way of RCEP was not mitigated, while the exports upside was lost. The trade deficit remains substantial. Dependence on tech transfer remains critical," he said, adding that "it's time to rethink India's membership in RCEP."

Baig backed India's recent move to ease certain restrictions under Press Note 3, which had tightened scrutiny on investments from neighbouring countries after the India-China border tensions in 2020. He said geographically contiguous economies naturally become strong trade partners and India should deepen economic integration with South Asian neighbours including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. "There are substantial synergies to be had by India forming a deeper trade relationship with Sri Lanka, with Bangladesh, with Myanmar and others," he said.

Government doesn't interfere in foreign exchange rate: Goyal

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

In last 2-3 days, rupee has appreciated significantly. These are market-driven factors"
Piyush Goyal

GOVERNMENT does not interfere in exchange rates as these are determined by market forces and influenced by several global factors, said commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday.

However, the government is taking steps to promote exports, reduce import dependence and promote a greater degree of investment into India, he said. "The government does not interfere in the exchange rate. It is a matter of market forces, and it is also dependent on several global factors. In fact, if I read correctly, in the last two or three days, again the rupee has appreciated pretty significantly. So, these are market-driven factors," he told reporters here when asked about his views on rupee outlook.

Rupee rose for the second consecutive session on Friday (May 22) to close sharply higher at 95.60 against the US dollar on softening of crude oil prices and supposed intervention by the Reserve Bank.

Govt steps to boost exports

Centre is taking steps to promote exports and investments cut import dependence and, Goyal said

Wrestlers Mansi, Kajal, Sumit strike gold at U23 Asian C'ships

India's stellar run continued at the U23 Asian Wrestling Championships as Mansi Lather, Kajal and Sumit clinched gold medals to headline a dominant showing on the second day of the competition in Da Nang (Vietnam). Mansi put up a dominant display in the 68kg gold medal bout, registering a 14-1 win over Uzbekistan's Firuza Esenbaeva. The Indian contingent also secured two silver and three bronze.

Archer hits the mark, takes RR into play-offs

After a quick 32 with the bat, pacer takes 3/17 to help team beat MI

GOMESH S @Chennai

IN a tournament where teams have scored at 9.4 runs per over on average during the powerplay, more often than not the impetus has been on being explosive with the bat in the first six overs. Not a lot of teams/bowlers have tried to go the other way around, trying to break the game in the powerplay with the ball. Gujarat Titans did it well at home and it shows why KG Rabada leads the powerplay wickets tally — 17 off his 24 wickets came in that phase — followed by the OG new ball bowler — Bhuvneshwar Kumar (15 out of overall 24) — and Mohammed Siraj (13).

Then comes Jofra Archer. The Englishman from Barbados has been exceptional with the ball for Rajasthan Royals without much attention. Of course, when a 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is smashing bowlers all over the park, understandably he holds the limelight. Archer, however, has quietly delivered when it matters. With 11 of his 21 scalps coming in the powerplay, he has been instrumental in RR staying in the playoff race till the last day of the league stages.

On Sunday, in a make or break contest against Mumbai Indians, Archer once again stepped up. But first he did so with the bat. When he walked out at No 7, RR were stuttering at 119/5 in 12.5 overs. But Archer, finally trusted with the bat, proved to be the gamechanger. He not just finished with an unbeaten 32 from 15 balls, but also ensured RR finished with 205/8.

However, this is Wankhede. No total is deemed safe here. Enter Archer again. Up against Rohit Sharma and Ryan Rickelton, it all took four balls for Archer to make an impact. After multiple plays and misses, he delivered a beautiful outswinger to remove Rohit. In his second over, he followed it up with an inswinger to clean up Naman Dhir. MI went from 0/1 to 18/2. Nandre Burger and Brijesh Sharma chipped in as MI finished powerplay with 49/4. And Archer, 3-0-14-2.

However, the contest was not done. When Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik Pandya seemed to build a partnership, keeping MI in the chase, Riyan Parag turned to Archer again in the 16th over. With 59 runs needed from 30 balls, Pandya and Surya had no choice but to take on Archer. The speedster hit the hard lengths, making it difficult for Pandya to clear the fence at pace. The MI captain was back in the pavilion. And that was the last straw. Game, set, match and qualification for Rajasthan.

Brief scores: RR 205/8 in 20 ovs (Jurel 38, Archer 32; Chahar 2/43) **bt** MI 175/9 in 20 ovs (Suryakumar 60, Hardik 34; Archer 3/17).

PLAYOFF

MAY 26
Qualifer 1
RCB vs GT, Dharamsala

MAY 27
Eliminator
RR vs SRH, New Chandigarh

MAY 29
Qualifier 2
New Chandigarh

MAY 31
Final
Ahmedabad

Jofra Archer of Rajasthan Royals celebrates the wicket of Mumbai Indians opener Rohit Sharma on Sunday | BCCI

POINTS TABLE

Team	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
RCB (Q)	14	9	5	18	0.78
GT (Q)	14	9	5	18	0.69
SRH (Q)	14	9	5	18	0.52
RR (Q)	14	8	6	16	0.18
PBKS	14	7	6	15	0.30
DC	14	7	7	14	-0.65
KKR	14	6	7	13	-0.14
CSK	14	6	8	12	-0.34
MI	14	4	10	8	-0.58
LSG	14	4	10	8	-0.74

KULDEEP, RAHUL HELP DELHI FINISH WITH WIN

KOLKATA: Kuldeep Yadav marked his return in stunning three-wicket haul to complement KL Rahul's blazing half-century at the top as Delhi Capitals outclassed an out of sorts Kolkata Knight Riders by 40 runs, in an inconsequential final league match of the IPL here on Sunday. **Brief scores:** DC 203/5 in 20 ovs (KL Rahul 60, Axar Patel 39) **bt** KKR 163 in 18.4 ovs (Rahane 63, Powell 29; Ngidi 3/27, Kuldeep 3/29).

Pole vaulter Dev puts up a record show

CHANDRA PRABHU @Ranchi

"I TEXTED Dev Meena on WhatsApp that he would cross the 5.45m mark," says pole vault coach Ghanshyam even as he was trying to soak in what he just witnessed. On a moderately humid Sunday evening at the Birsa Munda Football Stadium, both of Ghanshyam's wards Meena and Kuldeep Kumar lowered national records in the men's pole vault final at the National Senior Athletics Federation competition.

They ended with the same mark of 5.45m, breaching the qualification mark for the Commonwealth Games comfortably. The decision over their selection lies with the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).

While Kumar may retain the title as national record holder, it was a redemption of sorts for Meena. Having held the national record over a significant period of time (5.32m in February 2025 to 5.40m in July 2025), he lost the record to Kuldeep when the latter surpassed him at the Asian Indoor championship in Bhubaneswar with a mark of 5.41m.

In addition to that, Meena had faced his share of issues off the field, indicating the struggles faced by athletes. For last year's Federation Cup in Kochi, Meena travelled by flight but without his equipment as airlines did not allow it. Instead, Ghanshyam, the coach, decided to bring the equipment on a train. That issue got attention and was a subject of debate.

It continued earlier this year. After taking part in the All-India University meet in Mangalore, Meena and other pole vaulters were stranded in Mumbai due to an issue with the railway officials over carrying the equipment that was made out of fibre-glass. While bringing the equipment down on the platform switch to the train towards Bhopal, Meena and other athletes were told that they cannot take the equipment, despite an order from the Madhya Pradesh government. He was seen pleading to the officials at the time.

Events like these could dent an athlete's confidence. While that further brought more criticism on the way the athletes are treated, hope for change was little. But a record performance like Sunday's may change the perception of pole vault in India. Meena, in his humble tone, said that there is a lot more to be done. "A little bit, yes. But we have to do more to change that perception. Till the time Neeraj Chopra won Olympic gold in 2021, not many knew about the sport. Now the whole world knows it. His javelins face no problems. But we still may suffer. It is performances like these that might help us in our cause," he said. Putting on a strong show in a global event like the CWG might be the start of Meena's journey towards that day.

Dev Meena | EXPRESS

Sreeshankar breaches mark

Meanwhile, at the long jump pit, M Sreeshankar finished first with a mark of 8.08m, breaching the Commonwealth Games qualification mark (8.05m). His fifth jump, measured at 8.21 metres, is under scrutiny.

His progression since recovering from injury has been nothing short of incredible. Earlier, he had revealed how trips to South Africa, where he worked on his approach, has made him a better jumper. It was there to see on Sunday, as he began with 7.81m. Then, he went up to 7.98m in the second attempt, before leaping 8.08m in the third. While he dipped a little in the fourth attempt (7.93m), his fifth attempt, had it not been a foul, would be standing at 8.21m.

Meanwhile, comeback man and current national record holder Jeswin Aldrin finished sixth with a mark of 7.73m. Adjacent to the pits, High jumper Sarvesh Kushare matched the meet record of Tejaswin Shankar, set in 2018 (2.28m).

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Cracking under pressure to 2 NRs in 24 hrs: Gurindervir's transformation

CHANDRA PRABHU @Ranchi

THE 23rd of May, 2026 will go down as one of landmark days in the history of Indian athletics. Three new national records were created in the ongoing National Senior Athletics Federation competition at the Birsa Munda Football Stadium.

While Tejaswin Shankar finally breached 8000-point mark in decathlon and Vishal TK became the first Indian quartermiler to dip under 45 seconds, it was sprinter Gurindervir Singh's blazing run that has brought a large sense of belief across the country. Clocking 10.09 seconds to beat Animesh Kujur — the fastest man before the race with 10.15s – he first stripped the bib off his apparel, letting out a loud roar. Then came an emotional James Hillier – Gurindervir's coach and director of athletics at the Reliance Foundation. They shared a hug like never before.

"People have been talking a lot on social media. I wanted to prove myself that I made it in this event," Gurindervir told reporters after his run.

Gurindervir Singh celebrates his win

He touched the 10.2 second mark in 2021, where he clocked 10.27s at the National Inter State Senior Athletics Championship. However, he had struggled through with a stomach issue the following years, which had forced him to stay away from the sport for a year.

He bounced back by beating the national record set by Manikanta Hoblidhar (10.23s) with a mark of 10.20s in the Indian Grand Prix meet in March last year. But Kujur had taken over by breaking his record (10.18s), forcing him to become second-fiddle. Hillier recalled the challenges he had faced in 2025. "He came out all guns blazing first. He broke the national record early and then just couldn't hold his form together. He had a lot of things going on. But he learned a lot from that. We had some really difficult conversations," he said. "His mind wasn't conditioned to break the record. It came as a bit of a surprise. And then it was just bombardment. And he just wasn't ready for it. But he's learned a lot from that. He'll manage this (NR) well. Let him enjoy all this now and the next week or whatever. But it won't stifle him like it did last year," Hillier said. In a crucial event like the Federation Cup – the final selection trial for the Glasgow CWG in July – the 25-year-old stepped up to show his mettle.

Ravina crosses CWG mark

Day 4 of the Fed Cup began with Ravina Antil crossing the qualification mark for the CWG (44:44.58s) in the women's race walk, as she won the final with a mark of 44:29.66s.

EXPRESS READ

Shuttler Tanvi finishes second at Austrian Open

NEW DELHI: Young Indian shuttler Tanvi Patri signed off with a runner-up finish at the Austrian Open International Series after going down in straight games to Canada's Rachel Chan in the women's singles final in Graz. Patri lost 14-21, 17-21 to the top-seeded Canadian.

Rajpal to be India's chef de mission at CWG

NEW DELHI: India's Davis Cup captain Rohit Rajpal has been appointed as the country's chef de mission for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, according to IOA sources. Ravi Bengani is the Deputy Chef de Mission. The Games will be held from July 23 to August 2.

NRAI names 22-member squad for Munich WC

NEW DELHI: India will field a 22-member squad at the ISSF Rifle/Pistol World Cup in Munich from May 24 to 31, with double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker set to compete in two individual pistol events besides the mixed team competition. The NRAI announced the squad on Sunday.

Why Haaland invested in Total Chess World C'ship

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Oslo

ON the streets of Oslo on Saturday, there were Barcelona jerseys wherever you looked. Not without reason. On an increasingly sun-kissed day, their women's team lifted the Champions League at the Ullevaal Stadion in central Oslo. A 4-0 win meant their fans were happy to shoot the breeze deep into the night. On June 1, Ullevaal will also host the Norway men's team in one of their last friendlies before the World Cup in US, Mexico and Canada.

Around that time, Erling Haaland, one of Norway's most instantly recognisable sportspersons, could be a surprise visitor to the Deichman, Oslo's National Library. It's an imposing building next to the ocean and the Munch museum in one of Europe's great tourist cities.

So why would the forward visit the Deichman? This year's Norway Chess will be held there and Haaland is an investor in the Total Chess World Championship, whose pilot event is set for later this year.

How did it come about? Here's Kjell Madland, Norway Chess' CEO. "We worked for many months," he said on Sunday. "There were many meetings and discussions with his team and after a while, they presented to him. He was excited about it and he was thinking, maybe, this is something he can be a part of. He's very interested and also they (his team) were clear that if they wanted to go into it, they wanted to be one of the biggest owners of the company. That was good for it. There were good discussions and we were very happy.

"The most important thing for Haaland was the history of Norway Chess and the agreement we have with FIDE and the opportunity to build maybe the last big sport in the world who isn't commercialised. This is a big thing and these three things were the biggest for him." The agreement with FIDE is a big one because the upcoming tournament gives a pathway to qualifying for the Candidates directly from the Total World Championship.

Norway Chess

- 10-match double round-robin tournament from Monday.
- If the game ends in a draw, single match Armageddon will be played to decide the winner.
- Will be played in Classical format

Field

- **Open:** Magnus Carlsen, D Gukesh, VIncent Keymer, Alireza Firouzja, Wesley So, R Praggnanandhaa
- **Women:** Zhu Jiner, Ju Wenjun, Koneru Humpy, Divya Deshmukh, Bibisara Assaubayeva, Anna Muzychuk

Could Alireza feature in a wheelchair?

The world of elite chess is known for being prim and proper. That particular imagery received a beating last week when Alireza Firouzja, who had injured his right ankle, played while lying on a bed in his hotel room. This happened in the fourth round of the Super Chess Classic, a tournament in Romania. The images from that game spread like wildfire because it had to be seen to be believed.

While his opponent, Javokhir Sindarov, was sitting in an office chair, the Frenchman, in red boxers and a T-shirt, was sprawled on the bed, with a pillow providing support to a clearly swollen ankle. Firouzja, who has designs on becoming a world champion, played one more match in this fashion, before withdrawing from the tournament. While the 22-year-old will play all games from the playing hall at Norway Chess, it's understood that a wheelchair has been kept on standby if he so wishes. Madland, who wasn't a big fan of the images from Bucharest, expects Firouzja to sit in the normal gaming chair given to all players.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Alexander Zverev | AFP

Zverev strolls to victory in opener

AGENCIES @Paris

GERMAN second seed Alexander Zverev enjoyed a comfortable first-round win on the opening day of Roland Garros on Sunday. Under a blazing sun in Paris, Zverev eased past France's Benjamin Bonzi 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. The 29-year-old said it was "always nice to start with a straight-sets win", and he will doubtless have been glad to spend as little time on court as possible with the thermometer going past 30C. He will next face Czech Tomas Machac. **Select Rd 1 results: Men:** J Mensik (CZE x26) bt T Droguet (FRA) 6-3, 6-2, 6-4; A Davidovich Fokina (ESP x21) bt D Dzumhur (BIH) 6-7 (3), 6-3, 2-6, 7-5, 6-3; K Khachanov (RUS x13) bt A Gea (FRA) 6-3, 7-6 (3), 6-0; A Zverev (GER x2) bt B Bonzi (FRA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. **Women:** B Bencic (SUI x11) bt S Kraus (AUT) 6-2, 6-3; M Kostyuk (UKR x15) bt O Selekhmeteva (ESP) 6-2, 6-3; M Bouzkova (CZE x27) bt L Bronzetti (ITA) 6-3, 6-1; H Baptiste (USA x26) bt B Krejcikova (CZE) 6-7 (7), 7-6 (6), 6-2.

Wrestler Deepak's name in Asian Games long list

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

DEEPAK Punia was the only Indian wrestler to reach the final and finish with a silver medal in the 2022 Asian Games held in 2023. The remaining five medallists could manage a bronze each, taking India's total tally to six. With the 2026 edition of the continental games only a few months away, once again a lot will be expected from Indian wrestlers. The Wrestling Federation of India is holding selection trials to pick the national team for the Asiad but its criteria meant Deepak was rendered ineligible to compete. The trials for women wrestlers is on May 30 in New Delhi while the men wrestlers' competition will be held the next day in Lucknow.

The former World Championships silver medallist's hope to qualify for the reputed event was hanging by a thread but a timely good show at the Senior Open Ranking Tournament in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh earlier this month gave a new lease of life to Deepak. The Haryana wrestler won the gold in the 92kg weight category. Given his recent performance and past laurels, the WFI added his name to the long list sent to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for the Asian Games. Names of a couple of more wrestlers like Yash (74kg) were also added to the list increasing their chances of participation in the trials. Yash also won a gold medal at the Gonda tournament.

"Deepak and a few more wrestlers were included in the list after the Ranking Tournament," a WFI source told this daily. The IOA, in turn, had sent the list to the Asiad organising committee paving way for all of them to stake their claims in the national squad after winning trials.

"The WFI has yet not announced that it will allow medallists from the Ranking Tournament to compete in the trials. There is a high chance that it might allow them making all medallists eligible. Deepak will compete in the 86kg if given permission," added the source.

Deepak Punia

Notably, two-time World Championships medallist Vinesh Phogat and the federation are at loggerheads after the former was not allowed to compete at the Ranking event. She even moved the Delhi High Court seeking a relief and a double bench allowed her to compete in the trials. If the existing state of affairs does not change then Vinesh, who was disqualified for failing the weight test ahead of her final bout in the 50kg weight category at the 2024 Paris Olympics, in all probability will compete at the trials. However, like Deepak, Vinesh's name is not there in the long list.

"The last date to submit the long list to the IOA was May 15. Now it looks difficult to amend it unless a wrestler gets injured and is ruled out of the competition," said the source. Besides, a few wrestlers are also expected to move the Supreme Court challenging the relief given to Vinesh by the High Court in the days to come. If they go ahead with their plan, it will also complicate things for Vinesh.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

FOOTBALL ROUND-UP

Newly-crowned champions Arsenal finish season on a high

AGENCIES @London

NEWLY-CROWNED Premier League winners Arsenal finished their campaign with a 2-1 victory over Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park on Sunday.

Heading into the final matchday, the Gunners had already sealed the title, their first after 22 years. On the day, Gabriel Jesus and Noni Madueke scored to put the icing on the cake as Arsenal finished with 85 points, seven clear of second-placed Man City, who suffered a 1-2 defeat against Aston Villa.

West Ham relegated

West Ham were relegated and Tottenham survived on an emotional final day when Pep Guardiola and Mohamed Salah made their exits after record-breaking spells in English soccer.

West Ham beat Leeds 3-0 but that wasn't enough to climb out of the relegation zone because fourth-to-last Tottenham also won, 1-0 at home to Everton, to stay two points clear of its London rival.

Premier League champions Arsenal players lift the trophy on Sunday | AP

That meant West Ham's 14-year stay in the PL was over and Tottenham will be in the top division for a 49th straight season. Guardiola's decade-long tenure at Manchester City ended with a 2-1 loss to Aston Villa that featured a mid-match guard of honor for first Bernardo Silva and then John Stones, two of Guardiola's stalwarts. **Results:** Man City 1-2 Aston Villa; Brighton 0-3 Man United; Fulham 2-0 Newcastle; Spurs 1-0 Everton; Liverpool 1-1 Brentford; Burnley 1-1 Wolves; Forest 1-1 Bournemouth; West Ham 3-0 Leeds; Sunderland 2-1 Chelsea; Palace 1-2 Arsenal.

UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

CUET-UG
Dates: May 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 2026

BITSAT
Dates: May 25, 26, 27, 2026

HARYANA TET
Dates: May 30, 31, 2026

Agniveer
A four-year path to the Indian Army

YECHURI SASHIKANTH

WITH an aim to enhance the youthful profile of the armed forces, the government introduced the 'Agnipath' scheme. Under this, selected candidates are enrolled as 'Agniveers' for a total tenure of four years. Agniveers who complete their four-year tenure may apply for induction into the permanent cadre, with a maximum of 25% selected for the regular cadre within the Armed Forces. Upon completion, candidates may join the Indian Army, Indian Navy (SSR/MR), or Indian Air Force (Vayu). In the Indian Army, unmarried male candidates may apply for Agniveer General Duty, Technical, Clerk/Store Keeper, and Tradesman posts, while female candidates may apply only for Military Police posts.

UNDERSTANDING ELIGIBILITY RULES

Candidates between 17½ and 21 years of age must meet the following educational, physical, and medical criteria to be enrolled as Agniveers.

- **General Duty:** Class 10 pass with 45% aggregate across five subjects and 33% in each subject
- **Technical:** Class 12 Science with Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, and English, with 50% aggregate and 40% in each subject
- **Clerk/Store Keeper:** Class 12 pass with 60% aggregate and 50% in each subject
- **Tradesmen:** Class 8 or Class 10 pass, depending on the trade

front line

INSIDE THE EXAM STRUCTURE

Selection for Agniveer is based on a computer-based test (CEE), followed by physical and medical tests. The online test is conducted in 13 languages, with a deduction of 0.5 mark for every incorrect answer.

Category	Agniveer General Duty (GD)	Agniveer Technical	Agniveer Clerk/SKT
Subjects	GK, General Science, Math and Logical Reasoning	GK, Physics, Chemistry, and Math	GK, General Science Math and English
Number of questions	50	55	50
Total marks	100	110	100
Duration	1 hour	2 hours	1 hour

ANGELA MARY THOMAS

Behind the hierarchy of 'safe' careers and aspiration for getting high ranks in entrance exams lies a persistent discomfort with education pursued for creativity and intellectual depth, especially when a quick job title is not in sight

Art in Arts

THE 2025-26 result season is winding down, with entrance exam season gathering momentum. For recent school graduates, this phase marks a rite-of-passage moment, confronted with a question deeply embedded in modern Indian society: "What next, medicine or engineering?" There are moments in life when the future narrows into a funnel. The brief period between the end of school and the beginning of college is often the earliest significant one.

Students rarely choose arts courses outright. More often, they arrive there after moving through a prestige-driven hierarchy that begins with engineering, medicine, gap years, commerce, and only then, as a last resort, arts. Most parents do not celebrate a BA admission the way they celebrate an MBBS seat. Teachers rarely beam with pride when their brightest students choose English Literature over Computer Science.

Somewhere within the architecture of academic aspiration, after years of systematic devaluation, the arts and humanities have turned into fallback options for those unable to crack the "real" courses.

Dr John J Kennedy, former Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences at Christ University, rejects this framing. "I'm uncomfortable with the very phrase 'fallback option' because it already assumes that STEM education occupies a superior position," he says. "The problem is not that arts education lacks relevance. The problem is that we have failed to argue for its importance properly. We have equated education with employability and return on investment."

Yet the perception persists because, unlike mainstream options, the arts lack a clear marketable promise. STEM degrees are framed as pathways to stability and upward mobility. The humanities, meanwhile, are treated as abstract, unstable, or economically impractical. In a country shaped heavily by middle-class anxieties and competitive exam culture, education often becomes detached from the pursuit of knowledge.

free form

Corporate burnout

Stories of corporate burnout and dissatisfaction are common among young professionals who followed conventional ideas of career stability. High salaries and prestigious titles have failed to produce a meaning or satisfaction.

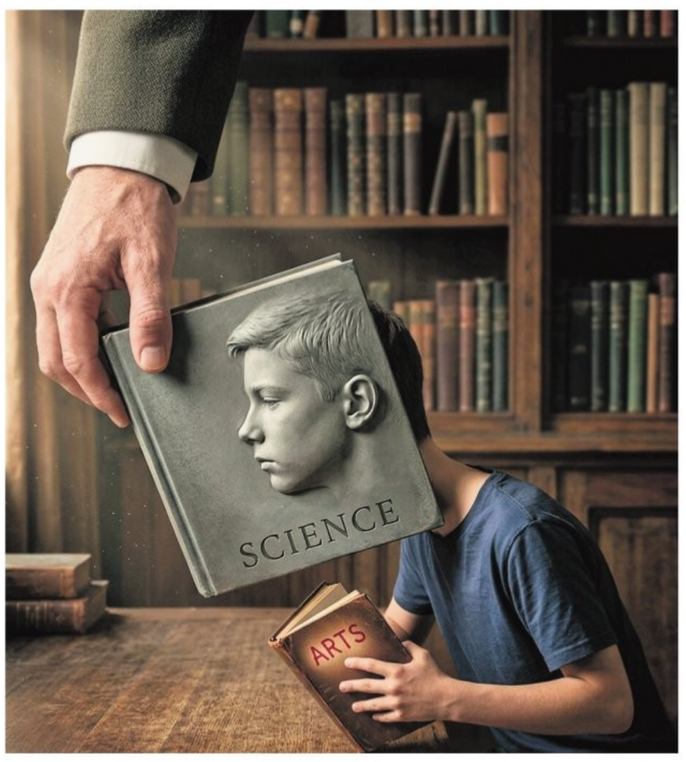
> *The problem is that we have failed to argue for art's importance properly. We have equated education with jobs and RoI*
>
> John J Kennedy, Ex-Dean of Humanities at Christ University

At the same time, stories of corporate burnout and dissatisfaction are now common among young professionals who followed conventional ideas of career stability. High salaries and prestigious titles have, in many cases, failed to produce a sense of meaning or satisfaction.

"Skills can be acquired later in life, but what young people need immediately after school is emotional grounding," he added. "A creative path is neither a luxury nor an elitist indulgence. At a time when anxiety, exhaustion, and emotional fatigue are deeply woven into modern life, an arts education can offer students equanimity."

Ground realities

The ambiguity surrounding arts education and fulfillment takes concrete shape in individual lives. Mrittika, a theatre-maker and actor, says that coming from a middle-class family, the arts were always encouraged as a hobby and rarely imagined as a viable career. "You are told to secure your bread and butter first, and only then pursue art. Art itself cannot become your bread and butter," she says. "The hardest part initially was not even the financial instability, but the feeling that nobody around you fully understood what you were trying to do. There is this assumption that choosing the arts is irresponsible or financially reckless, as though you are doing something wrong."



This narrative is echoed by many in the art space. "As a first-generation graduate, that too in engineering, leaving a cushy IT job for the arts was probably the hardest and least supported decision I have ever made," says Shajan Kavitha. "But what is life if not lived in pursuit of something meaningful?"

One of the least acknowledged advantages of an arts education is the breadth it confers. Unlike more specialised degrees that train students for a defined role within a defined industry, the humanities and creative disciplines cultivate transferable capabilities that travel across disciplines. Arts graduates, as a result, often move with unusual fluidity between fields.

"The art space is vast, with new roles constantly emerging and evolving. In the years since entering the field, I have transitioned through multiple roles: illustrator, reporter, creative director, assistant director, even a non-fiction author," added Kavitha. "The interdisciplinary nature of the arts made it possible for me to build a career across multiple domains."

Regardless of how one enters the arts field, surviving within it ultimately depends on persistence and constant learning. Prateek Naganatham, a Hyderabad-based musician, began his journey at 12 and later went on to study at AR Rahman's KM Music Conservatory. Today, he works in films, independent music projects, and live performances.

Looking back, he rejects the idea that artistic careers must necessarily be synonymous with suffering. "A lot of people think art automatically means struggle," he says. "No job is easy or comes with guaranteed results. That is true across the board. In the arts, building a career requires willingness to adapt, persevere, and understand the space you are entering."

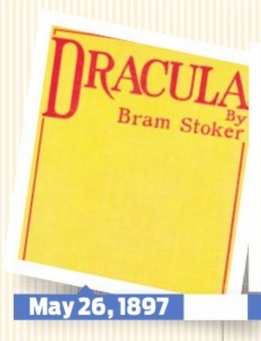
Way forward

A story currently circulating across Silicon Valley is that of Mrinank Sharma, former Head of AI Safety at Anthropic, who recently announced his departure. In his farewell letter, Sharma wrote, "The world is in peril. We appear to be approaching a threshold where our wisdom must grow in equal measure to our capacity to affect the world." He concluded by saying he would spend time pursuing a poetry degree.

He is not alone. At the precise moment artificial intelligence is accelerating humanity's technical capabilities at an unprecedented scale, many people building these systems are turning toward the humanities in search of perspective. The irony is difficult to ignore.

This is perhaps the strongest argument for the arts today: far more than a fallback option, they remain a foundational education in ethics, morality, critical thought, and the capacity to live with intention.

THIS WEEK CHANGED EVERYTHING



May 26, 1897

Dracula bites into pop culture

129 years ago, Bram Stoker's Dracula was published in Britain, turning vampire folklore into one of literature's most durable figures. Its afterlife runs through horror fiction, cinema, theatre, games, fandom, publishing, and adaptation studies, giving students a case study in how stories travel.

May 29, 1919

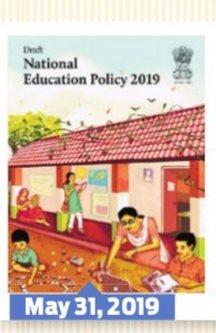
Eclipse bends light and theory

107 years ago, solar eclipse observations by Arthur Eddington's teams tested Einstein's general relativity by measuring starlight bending near the Sun. The results made a theory measurable, changing physics education and feeding astrophysics, cosmology, gravitational lensing, and evidence-led science training.

May 26, 1999

PSLV-C2 enters launch commerce

27 years ago, ISRO's PSLV-C2 launched Oceansat-1 with South Korea's KITSAT-3 and Germany's DLR-TUBSAT. The mission showed India could place multiple satellites in orbit and enter commercial launch services, opening paths in aerospace, remote sensing, ocean studies, satellite design, and space business.



May 31, 2019

Draft NEP redraws learning paths

7 years ago, the Kasturirangan committee submitted the Draft National Education Policy. It proposed early childhood focus, multidisciplinary learning, vocational exposure, and flexibility across streams, helping frame later debates on how Indian students learn, choose subjects, and prepare for careers.

May 30, 2020

India opens national AI portal

6 years ago, India launched the National AI Portal, INDIAai, with the Responsible AI for Youth programme. It created a public hub for AI learning, case studies, start-ups, research updates, and policy for young builders outside big tech hubs, giving students a route into responsible AI, data science, tech careers, and future regulation.

Turning a new page on reading

KARTHIKEYA S

How have busy lifestyles and short-form content affected people's reading habits?

CULTURAL commentary in recent months has lamented how short-form content has pushed books out of culture. However, active readers still exist today, albeit with different habits.

One habit, many formats

Readers now move fluidly between paperbacks and e-books. "I prefer physical copies, but when they're not available, I lean towards e-books," says Rachana Thirukovela, a psychology major. Others have embraced digital reading completely. Murugappan Meriyappan, a Bengaluru-based humour writer who reads EPUBs on his iPad, explains, "I can carry multiple books during travel without having to lug around a big bag." At the same time, physical books still hold emotional value. "I love the texture and feeling of holding paperbacks. They also allow me to focus better while reading," says Tina Medi, a filmmaking professional. Sowmya Raju, a Chennai-based entrepreneur, says, "My friends give me books with inscriptions, and I find the gesture very meaningful."

Reading for pleasure only

Many readers tie books more to comfort or joy than productivity. Daisy, a healthcare professional who also runs a book club, says, "I find so much warmth and hope in words; an intimate feeling I find nowhere else." UK-based public health researcher Prateeksha Karat admits she loses interest in reading when it begins to feel like an obligation, noting, "I read when I can. That has helped sustain the habit the most." Hyderabad-based game developer Suramya Das says he enjoys the "tactile sensory pleasure" of books and reads fiction and travelogues "to steal inspiration".

Internet: fuelling reading or ruining?

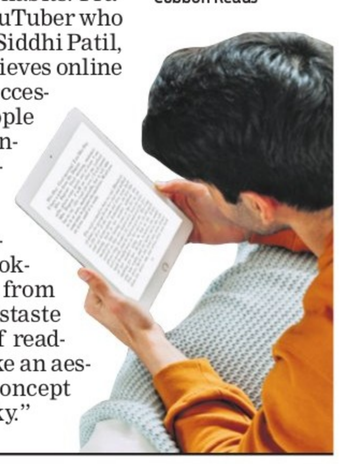
Social media trends and communities have also influenced reading habits. Prateeksha recalls that it was a YouTuber who made her want to read again. Siddhi Patil, a student from Bengaluru, believes online spaces make literature more accessible. "These spaces help people who don't have the time or money to read," she says. Some remain sceptical, however. "There's something so hollow about it," says Aadhya, a lawyer from Hyderabad, about BookTok culture. Kris, a student from Hyderabad, also expresses distaste toward the "aestheticisation of reading". They say, "When we make an aesthetic surrounding just the concept of reading, it gets really murky."

shelf life

WHAT NEXT FOR READING

Shruti Sah, co-founder of Cubbon Reads, a Bengaluru-based public reading community, says readers today often carry reading as part of their identity, mentioning it while making friends, dating, or finding communities. Although she believes that reading has become more social and "cool", she stops short of claiming that it is returning in a larger cultural sense.

> **The patience and appreciation needed for long-form reading still has to be cultivated separately**
>
> Harsh Snehansu, co-founder of Cubbon Reads



WORDS COUNT

Off the books: Literature degrees & the modern workplace

Literature graduates find work across publishing, branding, media, policy, editing, and digital communication, though educators say employability still depends heavily on self-built experience

SOHAM MITRA

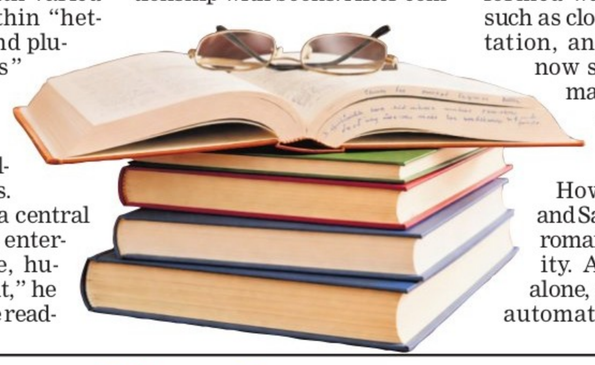
ACCORDING to Dipanjan Muhuri, Assistant Professor of English at Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, West Bengal, the professional landscape for literature graduates has expanded considerably in the past few years. "Print and digital media, advertising and the book industry have now for a considerable time offered sumptuous employment opportunities," he said, adding that the growth of social media has opened doors in content creation, podcasting, and vlogging.

Educators and industry professionals argue that literature's value now lies in the transferable skills the discipline cultivates. Muhuri believes literature classrooms equip students to engage with varied viewpoints within "heterogeneous and plural spaces" without hostility, a quality he sees as significant in collaborative workplaces.

fine print

"These skills play a central role in defining any enterprise as responsible, humane and transparent," he said, referring to close reading, contextual understanding, and audience sensitivity. According to him, storytelling and narrative thinking also influence modern branding and persuasive communication.

For Jayati Sarkar, now working as an associate copy editor, the transition from academia to corporate publishing felt like "a natural extension" of her relationship with books. After completing an MPhil in literature, Sarkar began as an intern at a Mumbai-based publishing house before progressing to a full-time editorial role.



Her literature training, she says, remains central to her work. "It taught me how to look closely at a situation, read between the lines, and work with language in a thoughtful, informed way," she said. Skills such as close reading, interpretation, and tone assessment now shape tasks such as manuscript evaluation, author communication, and editorial review.

However, both Muhuri and Sarkar caution against romanticising employability. A literature degree alone, they stress, does not automatically prepare students for industries like publishing, translation, or media. "These fields require language competence, an acute awareness of nuance, and a thorough study of the craft," Muhuri noted.

Sarkar echoed the sentiment, pointing out that publishing is "highly practical and commercially driven". Beyond academic training, she had to develop project management, communication, and workflow skills on the job.

As universities adapt curricula under the National Education Policy with internships and skill-based courses, the message emerging from academia and industry is clear: literature beyond the classroom requires students to develop professional experience alongside intellectual training.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

Bengaluru Express

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25•05•2026
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Star Wars released

Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope the first film in one of the successful multimedia franchises released on this day in 1977

THE PLOT

Set 'a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away' centres on a young man embroiled in an interplanetary war between authoritarian empire and rebel forces

AWARDS

The film revolutionised the motion picture industry with its advancements in special effects, bagging six Academy Awards, and a special mention for sound

STAR WARS UNIVERSE

The franchise remained incredibly lucrative through clothing, action figures, multiple extensive book series and also animated feature film

CE's curated list of events in the city

PG 2

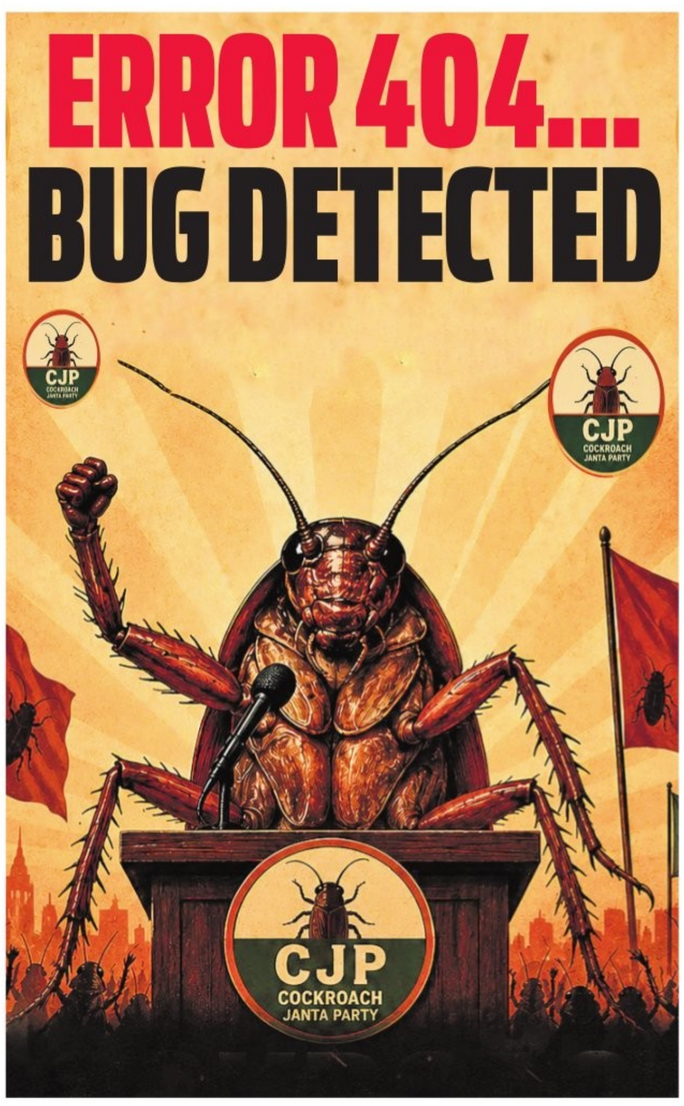
With the Cockroach Janta Party taking over social media feeds, B'luru's youngsters share their take on the viral satirical trend, its feasibility as a political movement and if real issues can be addressed through memes

MAHIMA NAGARAJU, SRUTHI HEMACHANDRAN & ANJALI RAM

IN the last week, all eyes, online discourse and prime-time debates have been trained on the most viral phenomenon in India today: the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), founded by Abhijeet Dipke, a political communications strategist and student at Boston University. Cropping up online as a satirical response to the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant being quoted by the media saying, "There are youngsters like cockroaches, who don't get any employment. Some of them become media, some of them become social media, RTI activists and other activists, and they start attacking everyone." Although the CJI later claimed that he had been misquoted, clarifying that he was referring to fake degree holders, it was too late: the CJP had been formed and has continued to get immense social media attention, amassing 22.7 million followers on Instagram (surpassing the BJP's 9.3 million), inspiring the hashtag #MainBhiCockroach.

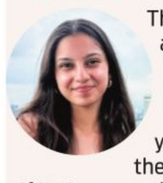
Its X account being withheld in India didn't do much to quell the flames either, as Dipke has continued to post memes and even called attention to student suicides over the recent NEET paper leak, mobilising his following to sign a petition demanding the Union education minister's resignation. The account has received its share of criticism, too, with claims that Dipke is associated with the AAP (Aam Aadmi Party) or is a 'foreign agent' making the rounds, while others dismissed the move as merely a viral trend without any real-life impact.

In the midst of this, *CE* asks Bengaluru's youth whether CJP is just a viral stunt or if it can bring about real on-ground change.



MOVEMENT REFLECTS YOUTH FRUSTRATION

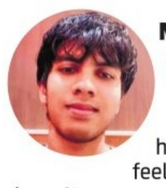
Jia Khosla, student



The account went viral because it felt funny, honest and easy to relate to. A lot of young Indians are stressed about jobs, money and politics, so it connected with them quickly. Calling everyone involved 'paid' or 'fake' ignores the fact that many young Indians genuinely feel frustrated about jobs, the cost of living, politics and not being heard. Even if it stays mostly online, the response itself shows that these feelings are real. If it can push more people to think, question things and stay involved beyond memes and trends, that would be a good outcome.

MOVEMENT FEELS PERFORMATIVE

Godwin Emmanuel, research scholar



The Cockroach Janta Party is a good start. It's nice to see Gen Z developing a collective political consciousness and coming together. But if an actual change or revolution has to happen, it needs a strong ground presence, not just a digital one. Right now, the movement feels a little performative. A lot of people are participating because it's exciting online, but that doesn't necessarily translate into deeper political engagement. If the movement doesn't want to die down, it needs a stronger collective consciousness, a clear ideology and presence on the field.

UNFAIR TO JUDGE WEEK-OLD MOVEMENT

Maxyz M Nadakkalan, artiste-sound designer

Why can't the CJP be both a genuine political frustration and a meme culture turning political? This is political discourse in a new language – from caricatures and columns to memes, it feels like a natural progression. Comedy has always been an avenue for political conversations. What comes after the joke – that's the real discourse. Online is also where humans are these days. A five-second reel can change opinions and behaviour. Calling it names won't take away its impact. Plus, it's unfair to judge a week-old movement on offline mobilisation.

CJP SHOULD ADDRESS REAL PROBLEMS

SP Vishnu Saketh Bhattar, student

Initially, I found it quite strange. With such a huge social media presence, the party has the potential to raise important issues, highlight them and stand by its manifesto. However, it should avoid getting distracted by petty issues or unnecessary conflicts and remain focused on addressing real problems. I would support it because at least it is acknowledging and addressing our concerns on its platform rather than ignoring them. If it evolves into a real movement, I hope it delivers all the promises it makes.

INDIVIDUAL REAL-LIFE ACTION IS KEY

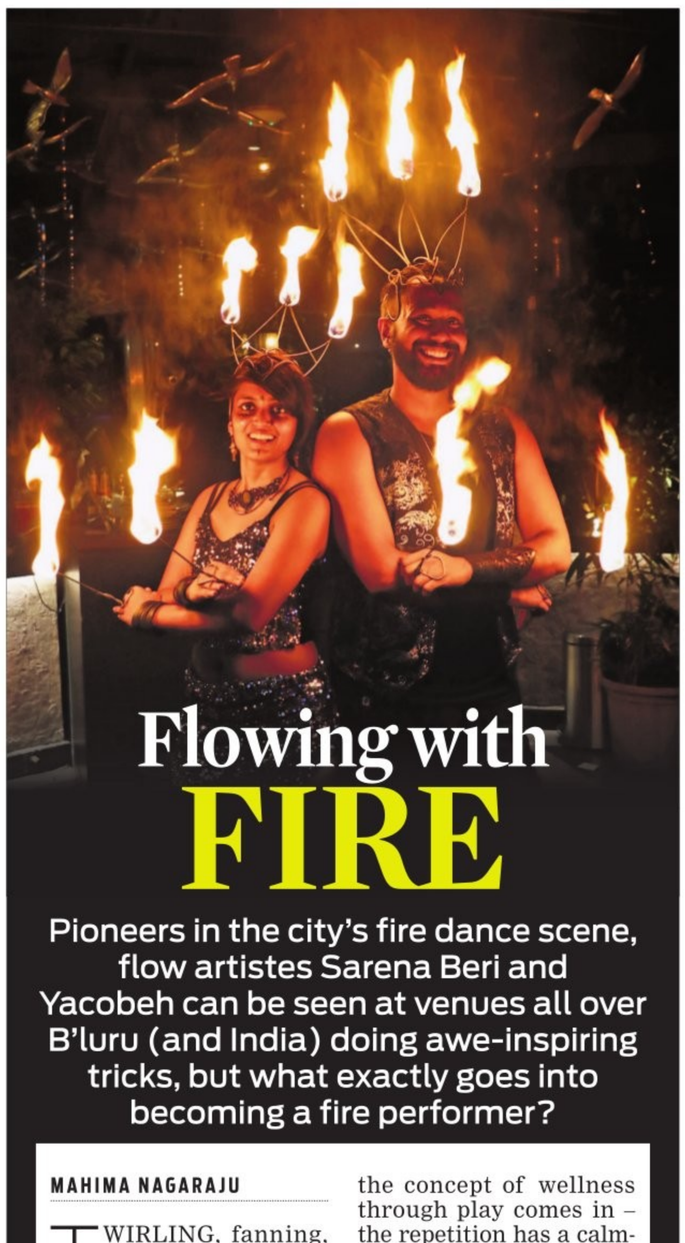
Rheea Mukherjee, writer

This should not come as a surprise. We are living through an absurd gap in rights and quality of life. The youth of this country deserve so much more than excruciating survival and crumbs to look forward to. We would be foolish to look at this moment without the lens of potential. Criticism and good-faith questions matter, but it is equally important to examine how we, individually, can offer a stronger praxis to address our collective frustration. It is time to walk the talk and find solidarity with one another. Look around you, your neighbours, the person who irons your clothes, the domestic workers, the security guard, the children on your street, the quality of the roads outside your home, the animals living alongside you. Notice the quality of life across every one of these realities. How do you get people together to solve one micro issue to start? This is how solidarity transforms into collective power and adds momentum to any larger call to action.

CJI'S REMARKS STRUCK A NERVE

Brahmjyot Singh, student

I find it genuinely clever. It converted humiliation into defiance without requiring anyone to be brave in a way that felt risky. It connected with our generation because the CJI's remarks were an insult about something many of us are already blamed or criticised for. It was labelled as a 'cross-border influence operation' designed to destabilise India, alleging social media manipulation and foreign interference. I find this claim weak. It follows a pattern of automatically labelling domestic movements foreign interference whenever it becomes inconvenient, and the government's decision to have the CJP's X account withheld in India under the IT Act does more damage to its own credibility. I'm cautious about having strong hopes for political movements. The most important thing CJP can do is hold its own and avoid being engulfed by other parties. Whether CJP survives or not, the important thing is that the people are finally asking questions.



Flowing with FIRE

Pioneers in the city's fire dance scene, flow artistes Sarena Beri and Yacobeh can be seen at venues all over B'luru (and India) doing awe-inspiring tricks, but what exactly goes into becoming a fire performer?

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

TWIRLING, fanning, spinning fire and even sporting it as a crown – for flow artistes Sarena Beri and Yacobeh, 'to play with fire' is not a warning but a calling. "There's something we say among fire dancers – that fire has energy of its own, it possesses you and brings you more energy," says Rohan Jacob, who goes by the stage name Yacobeh for his flow arts performances. An engineer by qualification, he first saw fire dancing at a concert in Goa and it was love at first sight, as he recalls, "All the performers were so in tune with the music and the audience – it felt like a reactive dance, where everyone was using each other's energy to fuel the performance further. It was life-changing for me." Over a decade later, Jacob, along with Beri, run Indie Flow, teaching flow arts, including fire dancing to Bengalureans, while bringing their awe-inspiring fire performances to private events, breweries, festivals and this Saturday, to Wonderla.

At the core of it all is 'wellness through play,' explains Beri, who was a lawyer before deciding to pursue her passion. "We often get asked 'What does this do for you?' It wasn't an immediate attraction for me and I didn't understand it till I started practicing with Jacob and another friend, when there was nobody else doing this in Bengaluru," says Beri, adding that the practice is different from the end result people see.

"Learning a trick can take 30 minutes, a few days or months. But as you're doing the same thing over and over again that's when movement meditation and the concept of wellness through play comes in – the repetition has a calming effect on the mind. What you see in shows is us adding tricks, choreo, expressions and making it a performance," she explains.

For the duo, who taught themselves through YouTube videos and had to import props like poi (prop with a ball and wick on each end which are set on fire) at great cost in their early days, it took two years before they were ready for their first fire dance performance. Now they make and sell them too.

Starting off with learning poi, they expanded to fans, hula hoops, dragon staffs and more. Recalling a moment that always gets a big reaction, Jacob shares with a smile, "There's a move called an orbital with poi in which you interlock the chains together and create a rippling buzz saw effect, which goes on for a long time. It never fails to get the audience going, 'Wow, what have I just seen?'." Sarena adds, "I love fans and palm torches because they allow me to express myself in a more dance style – they're feminine, beautiful props."

With the beauty, though, comes caution too, even as Jacob notes that 'The thrill of exploring always takes over the fear of getting burnt.'

Sarena explains that precautions start well before ensuring a safe venue layout and having fire extinguishers ready, saying, "The first line of safety is that you need to be skilled enough not to drop a prop. We also use a relatively non-volatile fuel like kerosene for the fire, wet our hair and wear cotton-based costumes – no polyester, paper or feather costume elements."

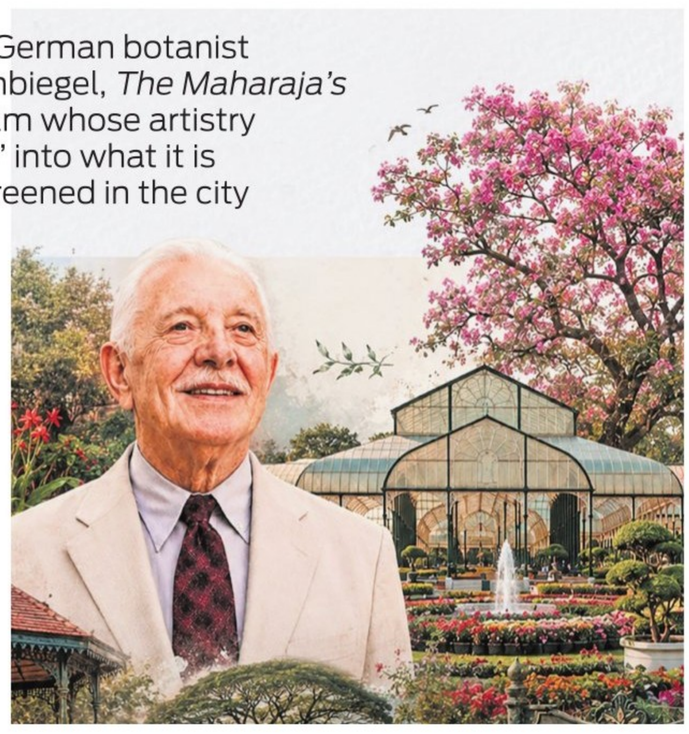
CITY READ

Hospital introduces robotic platforms for neurosurgery

Aster CMI Hospital introduced two robotic platforms, ROSA for cranial procedures and Mazor X for spine surgery, to enhance precision and safety in complex neurosurgical care. The robotic platforms were inaugurated by Venkatesh Prasad, President of the Karnataka State Cricket Association. ROSA enables frameless brain surgery with millimetric accuracy, removing the need for invasive skull-mounted frames and supporting tumour resections, epilepsy surgery and movement-disorder interventions. Mazor X provides robotic guidance for spine operations, improving implant planning and placement while reducing radiation exposure, enabling minimally invasive approaches. Hospital leaders noted that the systems aim to improve surgical accuracy, reduce tissue damage and recovery times to provide better clinical outcomes.

Celebrating the life of German botanist Gustav Hermann Krumbiegel, *The Maharaja's German Gardener*, a film whose artistry made the 'Garden City' into what it is today, was recently screened in the city

CHANDANA NAGARAJU



A Blooming Trail

THOUSANDS of Bengalureans use the 'Krumbigal' Road running on the boundary of Lalbagh every day, casually admiring the Lalbagh Gardens and perhaps making their way to Cubbon Park, to enjoy a day spent under the looming canopy of a flowering tree and listening to a fountain spout water in rhythmic precision. What they don't know is that the shady respite they so desperately seek out in the summers can all be owed to the life and work of one forgotten German botanist who first came to the city 118 years ago and who lived here until his death – Gustav Hermann Krumbiegel. "Krumbiegel was an artist who thought like a painter. He organised the city like an orchestra," said Suresh Jayaram, art historian and one of the panellists, during a post-screening discussion of *The Maharaja's German Gardener*, directed by Ganesh Shankar Raj, at the National Gallery of Modern Art on Friday.

Krumbiegel first arrived in Bengaluru to work as a botanist and landscape architect for the Maharaja of the princely state of Mysore, Krishna Raja Wadiyar IV, around 1908, after a stint at the gardens of Laxmi Vilas Palace and other royal gardens in Baroda. "When he came to Bangalore, there were basically just four gardens. Until 1932, when his official tenure ended, there were over 100 gardens in Bengaluru," said late Vijay Raghavan Thiruvady, a naturalist, in the documentary. Working for the Mysore Raja, he oversaw several gardens in Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Ooty and was responsible for the design of the Brindavan Gardens in Krishnarajasagara.

Ironically, the 'Krumbigal Road' signboard near Lalbagh has been misspelt. Krumbiegel Hall, which stood for 100 years, was razed to the ground in 2017. Once unknown even to Germans in Bengaluru, and still unknown to most people who live and work in the city, *The Maharaja's German Gardener* is an ode to the life of a man who made the Garden City into what it is. "He put his heart and soul into whatever he did," said Raj, adding, "The most important place the film should go is to educational institutions, because the next generation is the one that is going to take this forward."

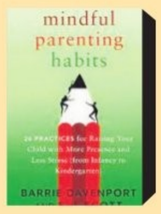
The most important place the film should go is to educational institutions, because the next generation is the one that is going to take this forward

Ganesh Shankar Raj, director

The next time you admire the blushing Tabebuia trees in March, take a moment to remember the man who brought them here.

(The Maharaja's German Gardener can be viewed for free on the MINDIA YouTube channel)

BOOK NOOK

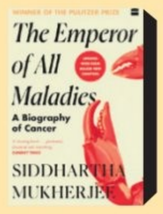


Mindful Parenting Habits
By Barrie Davenport and SJ Scott

As rewarding as parenthood is, the journey can be unpredictable, often fraught with exhaustion, frustration, exasperation, overwhelm and boredom. The book reveals how a few simple shifts in awareness can completely change the way you experience parenting.

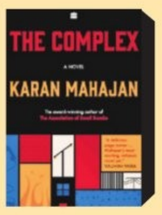
Buildit: Building Blinkit in An Evolving India
By Albinder Singh Dhindsa

The book cuts through start-up mythology, to offer a look inside a founder's mind – decision-making under pressure, how trade-offs are weighed and how companies are built when certainty is a luxury.



The Emperor of All Maladies
By Siddhartha Mukherjee

It is a profound and revelatory portrait of an enigmatic disease humans have lived with, and perished from, for more than five thousand years.



The Complex
By Karan Mahajan

Equal parts brilliant family saga and piercing political drama, this is a novel of revenge and redemption, loyalty and love, by one of the most lauded voices in contemporary fiction.

4...3...2...1

Members of the city-based all-girl dance group, The Vixens Crew, dance along with visitors during the 'Get Spotlight Ready' campaign, ahead of the global girl group auditions, at Commerce Mantri, Bannerghatta Road | **KEVIN NASHON**

QUICKFIX

MANGO SHRIKHAND

INGREDIENTS

- **Thick yoghurt :** 1 cup
- **Mango pulp:** 1/2 cup
- **Sugar:** 1-2 tsp
- **Cardamom powder (optional)**

METHOD

- Add the yoghurt into a bowl.
- Whisk yoghurt and mango pulp together.
- Add sugar and cardamom, chill for an hour and serve cold.

Contributed by **Sp Srikar,** Bengaluru

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Crown Vet, Delhi.

Is Phenyl or Lizol bad to wipe floors with in a house with pets? What is the reason and what are some of the alternatives?

Strong floor cleaners such as Phenyl and products like Lizol may not be ideal for households with pets. Many contain phenols, bleach, or harsh disinfectant chemicals that can irritate a pet's paws, skin, eyes and respiratory system. Pets may also ingest residues while grooming or licking floors, leading to stomach upset or toxicity.

ASK AN XPERT

Cats are particularly vulnerable because they metabolise phenolic compounds poorly. Safer options include diluted white vinegar, gentle soap-based cleaners, enzymatic pet-safe disinfectants, or veterinary-recommended floor cleaners, formulated specifically for pet homes. These alternatives help maintain cleanliness and hygiene while minimising harmful chemical exposure.

FITBIT

YOGA FOR BACK PAIN: A SIMPLE DAILY ROUTINE FOR RELIEF & LONG-TERM HEALING

SIMPLE YOGA POSES THAT CAN HELP REDUCE BACK PAIN

Back pain is no longer just an age-related problem. Long sitting hours, poor posture, lack of movement, and everyday stress have made it common even among younger people. Many spend hours hunched over laptops or phones, which slowly weakens the spine and surrounding muscles.

While severe or chronic pain needs medical attention, gentle yoga can help reduce stiffness, improve posture, and strengthen the muscles that support the back. The key is to move slowly and focus on consistency rather than intensity.

START WITH SPINAL MOBILITY

One of the simplest yoga movements for the spine is the Cat-Cow stretch or Marjariasana-Bitilasana. This movement involves arching and rounding the back slowly while breathing deeply. It improves spinal flexibility, increases blood flow, and helps reduce stiffness caused by long sitting hours.

USE RESTORATIVE POSES TO RELEASE TENSION

Gentle stretches can help relax tight lower-back muscles.

- **Child's Pose (Balasana):** In -this resting posture, you sit back on your heels with your arms stretched forward. It gently stretches the lower back, hips and spine while calming the nervous system.
- **Knees-to-Chest Pose:** Lying on your back and pulling your knees towards the chest helps release lower-back tightness and improves circulation around the spine.
- **Supine Twist:** This involves lying down and gently twisting the spine from side to side. It helps improve mobility and reduces tension built up in the back and hips.

STRENGTHEN THE SPINE FOR LONG-TERM SUPPORT

Stretching alone is not enough. Strengthening the muscles around the spine is equally important.

- **Cobra Pose (Bhujangasana):** This gentle backbend strengthens the lower back and improves posture by opening up the chest.
- **Bridge Pose (Setu Bandhasana):** In this pose, the hips lift off the floor while the shoulders remain grounded. It strengthens the glutes, lower back and core muscles.
- **Locust Pose (Shalabhasana):** This posture involves lifting the chest and legs slightly off the floor while lying on the stomach. It helps strengthen the entire back body and improves spinal stability.

Yoga works best when combined with better daily habits.

By Divya Rolla, yoga expert, cult — a fitness and wellness platform

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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@xpress_bengaluru

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Yoga Outing

Join this beginner-friendly yoga session, which combines discipline and fluidity and is designed to help you reconnect with your body. Whether you're a seasoned yoga practitioner or a beginner, this session promises a morning filled with mindful exercise that strengthens your body and helps it move better.

WHEN: May 25, 9.30am
WHERE: Nidhaana, Yelahanka
DETAILS: urbanaut.app

Make A Pizza!

Kickstart your Monday by making an authentic pizza right from scratch. Learn the basics of pizza-making, from the dough preparation and blending the perfect tomato sauce to choosing the perfect toppings. Bring a friend along and earn the satisfaction of devouring a pizza that you made.

WHEN: May 25, 3pm onwards
WHERE: Hobby Ghar, Seshadripuram
CALL: 95355 55644

Chocolate Jackpot

Step into this chocolate-making session that teaches you how to make the viral kunafa chocolate bar. In this guided experience, you'll learn how to melt, temper and layer chocolate while also learning unique techniques, such as the making of the dough and filling.

WHEN: May 25, 7.45pm **WHERE:** Fabrizo – Creative Art & Craft Lounge, BTM Layout **CALL:** 73861 41621

Aam Fiesta

Enjoy a delicious meal inspired by the versatility of the mango and relish its range of flavours – from sickeningly sweet to pleasingly sour. Bring a friend to take a sensory trip down memory lane by savouring mango dishes that remind you of summers and perpetually sticky fingers. **WHEN:** May 25, 11am
WHERE: Copper Chimney, Bellandur **CALL:** 98924 24058

City Stroll

Explore the charms of old Bengaluru on this guided tour that takes you through famous destinations that have remained an integral part of the city's culture. Wander through the centuries-old Bull Temple, take a stroll through Gandhi Bazaar and other well-known places. **WHEN:** May 25, 9am onwards
WHERE: Bugle Rock Park, Basavanagudi
DETAILS: airbnb.co.in

Cheeky Humour

It's time for some raunchy jokes at this adult-only comedy special where stand-up comedians challenge themselves to come up with the most outrageous jokes that will make you blush. Embrace the awkwardness and laugh unrestrained at what promises to be a memorable night.

WHEN: May 25, 8pm
WHERE: The Comedy Theatre, Church Street
CALL: 82996 72963

CLICK CLICK

Join this professional photoshoot session and make your vision of a perfect profile picture into reality. Maybe bring your partner or a couple of friends to experience of a fun photoshoot and forget about bad angles or ugly lighting.

WHEN: May 25, 12.30pm **WHERE:** Marcopolo Cafe, Koramangala **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Ceramics & Mindfulness

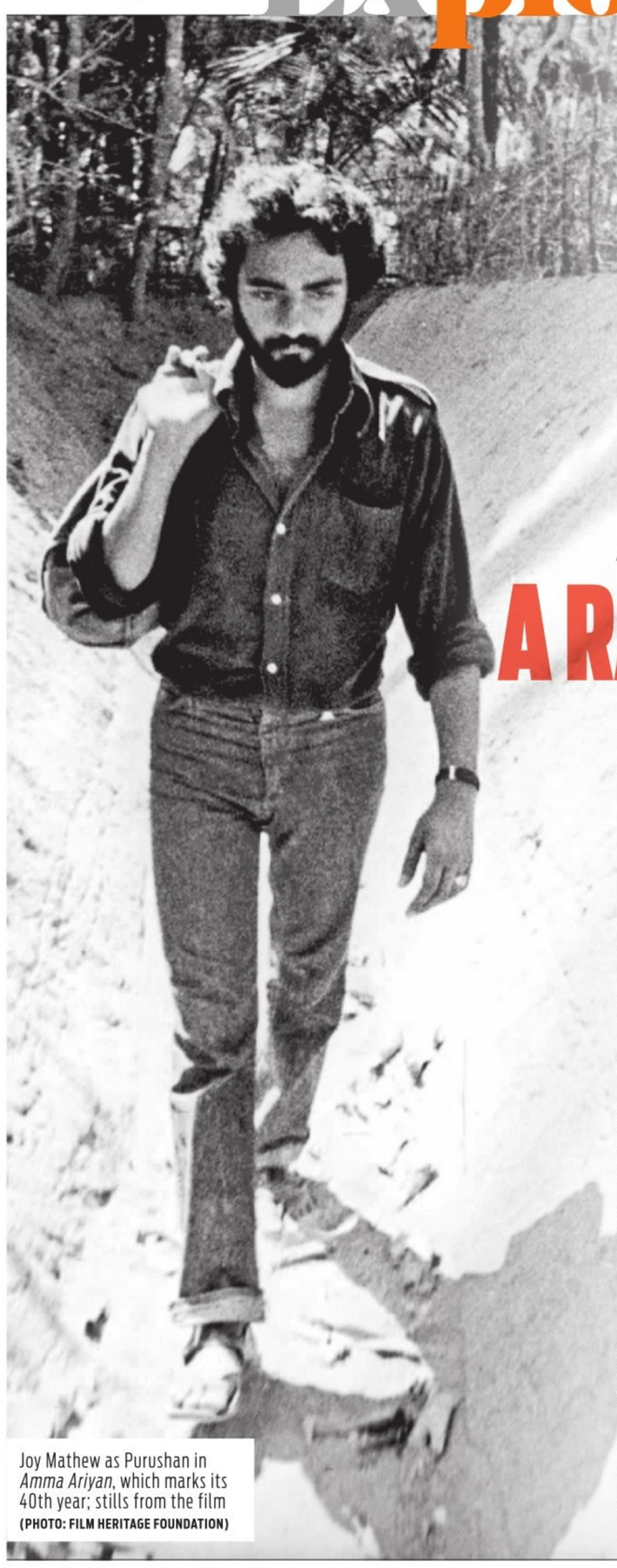
Learn the art of Nerikomi, a traditional Japanese ceramic technique, where you learn how to layer, cut and join pieces of clay carefully to create a distinct ceramic piece. Practice mindfulness and patience while engaging in a creative activity that offers to bring a sense of peacefulness to your day.

WHEN: May 25, 2pm
WHERE: Thirdspace – Art Café & Community, SG Palya
DETAILS: district.in

ARTCORNER

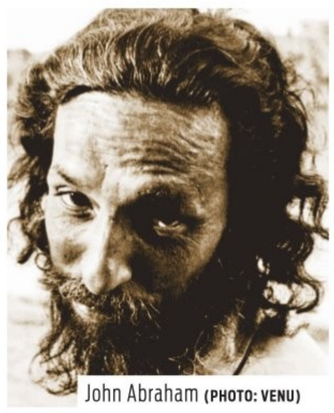
BREAKING BARRIERS

Amna Rahman's 'The Unfamiliar Driver' reimagines Karachi's water tanker as a site of gender, class and urban power



Joy Mathew as Purushan in *Amma Ariyan*, which marks its 40th year; stills from the film (PHOTO: FILM HERITAGE FOUNDATION)

Revisiting John Abraham's film, an Indian cult classic, 'rediscovered' at the recent Cannes Film Festival



John Abraham (PHOTO: VENU)

AMMA ARIYAN: A RADICAL REWIND

PARVANA K B

MOST films end with their runtime. Some sustain long after the screen goes dark – in film society discussions, classrooms, political conversations and among generations of cinephiles who keep returning to them through rediscovery. *Amma Ariyan* is one of them.

Forty years after maverick filmmaker John Abraham and his Odessa Collective took *Amma Ariyan* across Kerala through a people-funded alternative distribution movement, the cult Malayalam film recently reached a new global audience with its restored 4K version premiering at the 79th annual Cannes Film Festival as India's only selected feature for a world premiere this year.

Gerald Duchaussoy, head of Cannes Classics, describes the film as 'a trip in itself', adding that he was 'blown away by the intensity'.

For a film born outside the structures of mainstream cinema, *Amma Ariyan* was shaped as much by the people and places around it as by the filmmaker behind it. Moving between documentary realism and abstract fiction, the film follows a young man's journey to inform a mother of her son's death, gradually unfolding into a reflection on ideology, dissent and a generation caught between hope and disillusionment.

Returning to screens

Four decades later, its return to the international screen stands as a reminder of a cinematic vision that refused to separate art from the society it emerged from. Actor Joy Mathew, who played the protagonist (Purushan), met Abraham during the final years of the Janakeeya Samskarika Vedi, a radical cultural organisation tied to Left movements in Kerala during the 1980s. According to him, the film emerged from the emotional and political turmoil of that period.

"Many people who were active in the movement got scattered. Some struggled with depression, some died by suicide," says Mathew. "John was initially planning another film about the Kayyur revolt, but when that didn't happen, he started thinking about making a film around these experiences and the people affected by them. That is how *Amma Ariyan* took shape."

For Mathew, the experience of making the film went far beyond acting. "We were involved in everything – collecting 'bucket fund' from the public, gathering food from nearby houses, travelling with projectors and screening the film in villages, camping at libraries and public grounds. I even dubbed for several characters because we didn't have money to bring in junior artistes," he recalls.

Behind the camera

Cinematographer Venu remembers working in difficult and unpredictable conditions, often shooting handheld amid real crowds. "We wanted it to feel like reportage, almost like news footage. That's why there were so many handheld shots," he says. "The decision to shoot in 35mm black-and-white – despite colour cinema having become the norm by then – emerged from both practical limitations and aesthetic choices."

Venu describes the film as a once-in-a-lifetime phenomenon. "It was special in the way it was produced, distributed and shown to people. We stayed in ordinary people's houses during the shoot," he says. One of his strongest memories from the production was Abraham's decision to shoot crowd scenes in reverse order. "John knew people would gradually leave during the shoot because we couldn't hire crowds. So we filmed the larger crowd portions first and slowly reduced them," he says.

He bills *Amma Ariyan* as a 'rebellion' that challenged the 'dominance of capital in filmmaking'. "The cinéma vérité style emerged organically. We travelled from town to town like a troupe, often not knowing what we would encounter. That unpredictability was both the risk and the excitement," he adds.

Film editor Beena Paul shares the thrill. She remembers first hearing about Abraham while studying at FTII, where he already had a reputation because of his other classic, *Agraharathil Kazhuthai*. Later, after moving to Kerala, she became associated with him through Venu, her partner. "*Amma Ariyan* was documentary, fiction, memory and journey, all at once. John helped many of us move beyond rigid ideas of cinema and editing," says Paul.

"His understanding of the medium and even his sense of humour – all of that feels rare to find even now. *Amma Ariyan* was a classic in every sense. I don't know if a film like that can be made today."

Lasting impressions

Veteran film critic CS Venkiteswaran describes the film as a journey. "It travels through the ruins of radical movements, through memories of violence, loss, and disillusionment," he notes. The renewed attention around *Amma Ariyan* also marks another milestone for the Film Heritage Foundation, whose previous restorations of films such as *Thamp*, *Ishanou*, *Manthan and Aranyer Din Ratri* have premiered at Cannes in recent years. "The restoration was challenging due to the absence of the original camera negative and the survival of only a single unsubtitled print," says Film Heritage Foundation director Shivendra Singh Dungarpur.

"John Abraham was a true original. *Amma Ariyan* left a lasting impression on many of us during our film school years. We are excited that contemporary global audiences will now get to discover his cinema," he adds.

Decades later, as the film returns to the big screen, that line still feels inseparable from both the filmmaker and the film he left behind.

JOHN, THE REBEL

John Abraham remains one of the most singular figures in Indian parallel cinema, remembered as much for the way he made films as for the films themselves. He initially studied at Mar Thoma College in Tiruvalla, before pursuing a diploma in film direction at FTII, Pune. Deeply influenced by filmmaker Ritwik Ghatak, John rejected the conventions of commercial filmmaking. His works such as *Vidhyarthikale Ithile Ithile*, *Agraharathil Kazhuthai*, *Cheriyachante Kroorakrithyangal* and *Amma Ariyan* earned him a devoted following among cinephiles and filmmakers for their raw energy, radical politics and refusal to conform. Beyond directing, he also co-founded the Odessa Collective, a grassroots movement that attempted to take cinema directly to people. Abraham passed away on May 31, 1987, at the age of 49, shortly after he completed *Amma Ariyan*. "His existential and political conflicts were one and the same (the existential was political to him), and he dared to look into both with great courage, openness and freedom. The John legend lives on," says veteran film critic CS Venkiteswaran.

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SMART ADS

CHANGE OF NAME
This is to declare that I, **Mitesh Kumar Shah** have changed by name to **Mitesh Shah** vide Affidavit dated **22.05.2026** sworn to before Notary Sri Devaraja E, Notary and Advocate, Bengaluru. Here afterwards, I wish to be called and known for all facts, acts, deeds and thins as **Mitesh Shah** only.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VAISHNAVI GURURAJ,** aged about 26 years, D/o Gururaj Janakraj Malihalli, Residing at Warrior Lakeview Apartment, Flat no. 106, Near Palanahalli Lake, Po: Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **VAISHNAVI GURURAJ** to **VAISHNAVI GURURAJ MALIHALLI** henceforth I shall be known and called as **VAISHNAVI GURURAJ MALIHALLI** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 23/05/2026 sworn before Advocate and Notary **JALANDHARA** at Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **Usha Revanasiddappa Jagalur** W/o. Mr. J. B. Revanasiddappa Aged 60 years, R/at House No. 780, A Block, Near Vinayaka Temple, Sahakaranagar, Bengaluru - 560 092. I state that in my Aadhar & PAN Card my name was shown as **Usha Revanasiddappa Jagalur** but in my Passport my name was mentioned as **Usha Jagalur**. Both names **Usha Jagalur** & **Usha Revanasiddappa Jagalur** pertains to me only. I declare that hereinafter my name will be **USHA REVANASIDDAPPA JAGALUR** Vide affidavit dated 23.05.2026 sworn before Advocate & Notary C. N. Chandrashekar, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **KAVYA G.K**, D/o. Sri G Krishna Murthy, aged about 36 years, R/at. No. 41, G/F Habeeb House, 2nd A Main Road, Kanakashree Layout, Near Green Super Market, Byrathi Cross, Avalahalli Main road, Kothanur, Bangalore-560077, do hereby declare that both the my name i.e., **KAVYA GANGAIAH KRISHNA MURTHY** and **KAVYA G.K**, one and the same person that is my name only, hereinafter I shall be known and called as **KAVYA G.K** only, vide affidavit dated 23.05.2026, sworn to before Uday Kumar K, Advocate & Notary Public, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (OLD NAME) ROHINI W/o Manjunath B.N, Residing at No. 4, 2nd Cross, Sadashivaiah Main Road, Mahadeshwaranagar, Herohalli Cross, Vishwaneedam Post, Bangalore - 560091 have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) ROHINI** to **(NEW NAME) ROHINI JAYARAM,** affidavit dated 30.04.2026 sworn before notary H.R. Karunakara.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **C. Valanganni Nathan** aged about 37 years MSR Road, Mathikere, Bangalore-560054 have changed my name to **A.V. Nadan** vide affidavit dated 5.05.2009 before Magistrate Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VIJETHA ARUN PATIL,** Wife of Late **Arun Kumar Patil,** aged about 34 years, residing at No. 102, 7th 'A' main 3rd block 4th stage Basveshwaranagar Bengaluru-560079, have changed my name from **VIJETHA M.R** to **VIJETHA ARUN PATIL** vide affidavit dated: 22/5/2026 Before Notary **M.K.Devaki** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mr. BABU DINAKAR,** S/o Venkatachalaiah, aged about 69 years, residing at No. 75, 5th Cross, 7th Main, Mahaganapathi Nagar, West of Chord Road, Bangalore-560010, do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **BABU** and **BABU DINAKAR** are one and the same and refers to me only, and do hereby declare that my father both the names i.e. **VENKATACHALAIAH** and **VENKATARAMANASWAMY** are one and the same and refers to him only for all purposes, I continue my name as **BABU DINAKAR** and my father's name as **VENKATARAMANASWAMY** vide affidavit dated 23/05/2026 sworn before Advocate and Notary **RATNA. N** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SUBRAMANIYAN BALAJI, S/O SUBRAMANIYAN, Aged about 44 years, Residing at FA 169, 2nd cross, Behind HAL township, VTC: Vimanapura, PO: Vimanapura, Bengaluru Karnataka - 560017, have changed my name from **Subraminayam Balaji** to **ROHIT VINAY,** vide affidavit dated 18/3/2026 sworn to before K C Gowthami Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHASHANK DALMIA**, aged about 28 years, S/o. Alok Raghunath Dalmia, No. E1406, Durga Petals, Doddanekundi, Next to Rainbow Children Hospital, Bengaluru-560037, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SHASHANK ALOK DALMIA** to **SHASHANK DALMIA,** vide affidavit dated 23.05.2026, sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUMAY MAHULI,** Aged about 19 Years, resident of C 101 Greenesto O-2 Apartment, Haralur Main Road, Next to Sobha Classic, Eastwood Twp, Haralur, VTC: Bellandur, PO: Bellandur, District: Bengaluru-560103, Karnataka, have changed my name to **SUMAY KIRAN MAHULI** vide affidavit dated: 22.05.2026 before advocate and notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Sri.SURESH JEGADEESAN,** Aged about 42 years, S/o. Jegatheesan, resident of #113, 2nd Floor, D S Max Sanskruti Apartment, 207, Opp Food Max Super Market, K.Narayanapura Main Road, VTC: Bangalore North, PO: Dr. Shivarama Karanth Nagar, Sub District: Bangalore North, District:Bengaluru, State:Karnataka, Pincode: 560077, have changed my name from **SURESH JEGATHEESAN to SURESH JEGADEESAN,** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 23-05-2026, sworn before D.Rajanna, Advocate and Notary, K.Narayanapura, Bengaluru-560077

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CHANGE OF NAME
I, PAVANA GOVINDACHARYA, Presently residing at No.2643, "Dhanvantri" Banashankari 6th Stage, 4th Block, Chikkegowdana palya, Bengaluru-560109, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that my name is changed from **PAVANA GOVINDACHARYA** to **PAVAN BIDKAR**, vide affidavit dated 22-05-2026 sworn before notary S N MADHU, Kathriguppe, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **T.N. SATHISH,** S/o T.V. Narayanaswamy, residing at No. 03, Sri Lakshmi Venkateshwara Nilaya, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Near Jnanagangothri School, KR Abhinava Layout, Cheemasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore-560049, do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **T.N SATHISH** and **SATHESH** are one and the same and refers to me only henceforth I shall be known and called as **T.N. SATHISH** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 22/05/2026 sworn before Advocate and Notary **C. GIRI BABU** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **G.RAJESHKANNAN**, aged about 44 years, S/o Velu Guru Samy presently rediding at No.7, 200/7, 4th Cross Road, Suncity Main Road, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bangalore-560060, Have changed my **minor son's name** from **SAI MADHAV (Old Name) Tto MADHAV VIVAN.R (New Name)** for all purposes vide affidavit dated 22/05/2026 sworn before Advocate & Notary A.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MANJUNATH GOWDA**, aged about 32 years, S/o. B Lakshmanagowda, Doddashettikere, Turuvekere Talluku, Kallunagathihalli, Tumkur-572221, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **K L MANJUNATHA (KALLUNAGATHIHALLI LAKSHMANAGOWDA MANJUNATHA)** to **MANJUNATH GOWDA**, vide affidavit dated 23.05.2026, sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BHARAT KUMAR JAIN AND BHARAT KUMAR,** aged 48 years S/o DHARMICHAND, residing at NO 10, 2ND CROSS, RRMR EXTENSION, BENGALURU 560027 have changed my name to **BHARATH KUMAR D** vide affidavit dated: 22.05.2026 before advocate and notary B. Prasanna, Bengaluru.

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CHANGE OF NAME
We, **1. Mr. M.T. Siddalingappa,** S/o Thimmappa, aged about 46 years, **2. Mrs. Priya. C.G,** W/o M.T. Siddalingappa, aged about 37 years, Both Residing at No. 787, 10th Cross, D Group Employees Layout, Srigandhada Kaval, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560072, do hereby declare that we have changed my daughter name from **M.S ANVITHA** to **AVISHIKA NAVYA GOWDA** henceforth she shall be known and called as **AVISHIKA NAVYA GOWDA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 20/05/2026 sworn before Advocate and Notary **G. DAYANANDA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, NAVEEN JAIN, Son of Madan Lal, aged about 38 years, Residing at; No.281/1, 2nd Floor, 17th Cross, Cubbonpet Main Road, Cubbonpet, Bangalore as changed my name **'NAVEEN SAKARIA'** and **NAVEEN JAIN SAKARIA'** (Old Names) to **'NAVEEN JAIN'** (New Name) vide affidavit dated 22.05.2026 before Notary Public **Mr. S. JAYANNA,** Notary and Advocate

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SYED NOOR AHMED KHATIB**, S/o NASEER AHMED KHATIB, Residing at No.28, 2nd Floor, 11th Cross Road, Lakshmaiah Block, Ganganagar VTC Bangalore North , PO:HA Farm Sub District Bangalore North, District Bangalore, State Karnataka-560024, Have changed my name From **NADEEM AHMED KHATIB (Old Name)** to **SYED NOOR AHMED KHATIB (New Name)** for all purposes vide affidavit dated 23-05-2026 sworn before Advocate & Notary Sivakumara.M.N, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Shelma Chaco**, Aged about 46 years, Wife of Chacochan Muller A., Residing at No. 103, Aakruthi Apartment, 1st Floor, Jakkur Main Road, Bangalore North, Bengaluru - 560 064, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Shelma George** to **Shelma Chaco** vide affidavit dated 22.05.2026 sworn before Smt. A. Manjula, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, SYED SHABUDDIN, resident of No. 24, New No.11, Noor Manzil, 7th A Main, 3rd Cross, B.T.M. 1st Stage, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560029 have changed my name to **SYED SHAHABUDDIN alias S. NAZEER** vide affidavit dated: 08.05.2026 before advocate and notary A.R. Nagendra, Channapatna Tq

DECLARATION
I, **Mrs Usha T V**, also known as **Vishalakshi T V** W/o **Mr. Harish K.R.** aged about 48 years, residing at #529, 5th Cross, 8th Main, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar T.Dasarahalli, Bengaluru- 560057, do hereby declare that my name appears as **Usha T V, Vishalakshi T V** in various records, and that all such names refer to one and the same person i.e., myself, as affirmed by affidavit dated 19/05/2026 , sworn before **Mohammed Hussain K,** Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

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CHANGE OF NAME
We, **1. Mr. M.T. Siddalingappa,** S/o Thimmappa, aged about 46 years, **2. Mrs. Priya. C.G,** W/o M.T. Siddalingappa, aged about 37 years, Both Residing at No. 787, 10th Cross, D Group Employees Layout, Srigandhada Kaval, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560072, do hereby declare that we have changed my daughter name from **M.S. BHUVANA SHREE** to **AVINYA SARIKA GOWDA** henceforth she shall be known and called as **AVINYA SARIKA GOWDA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 20/05/2026 sworn before Advocate and Notary **G. DAYANANDA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I. **GOVIND RAJ MITHIL** (New Name) previously called GOVIND RAJU MITHIL (Old Name), Aged about 26 years, S/o. Marakottai Venugopal Govindraj, residing at No.5-5-280-16, Madeshwara Nilaya, Kodialguttu West, Kodialbail, Mangalore, D.K. District Karnataka.
I have Changed my name from "GOVIND RAJU MITHIL" to **"GOVIND RAJ MITHIL"** hereafter in all records, deeds and writings and in all proceedings, dealings and transactions, private use and sign the name of **"GOVIND RAJ MITHIL"** vide Affidavit dated 02.02.2026 before Notary S.Jayanth, at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **DEEPAK KUMARI HARADAYAL SINGH**, W/o Chikkanayakanahalli Thammaiah Vishwanath R/o No. 816/C, 16th Cross, 7th Block, West Jayanagar, Bangalore- 560082, have permanently changed my name from **DEEPAK VISHWANATH** to **DEEPAK KUMARI HARADAYAL SINGH**, vide affidavit dated 23/05/2026, sworn before Notary L.Puttaraju, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Unni P.R, S/o Raghavan Nair, aged about 50 years and residing at No.105, Roopa Manor, Upadhyaya Layout, Nagadevanahalli, Bangalore South Bangalore Viswavidalaya, Bengaluru - 560056 I have changed my minor daughter's name from **Kum. Aarathi Unni** to **AARATHH** Vide affidavit dated 21.05.2026, Sworn before Advocate and Notary Chandrakala, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MOHAMMED ALI DAWOOD,** D.O.B: 30.11.1960, S/o. U Dawood, Residing at Salamath Manzil, 2/61, 34 Nekkilady Village, Nekkilady, Dakshina Kannada-574325,Karnataka have changed my name to **MOHAMMED ALI** vide affidavit dated 22.05.2026 before notary GANGARAJU .B.N, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **DON BOSCO LOBO,** S/o. (Late) Anthony Francis Lobo, residing at Pine Wood Apartments - SF2, 9/1, Sunderamurthy Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru 560 005, will henceforth be know as **DON LOBO** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated **21-05-2026,** Bengaluru.

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WE WANT TO TAKE *RAGINI IPS 2* TO THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE: RAGINI DWIVEDI

Ragini Dwivedi returns with the sequel to the hit film, *Ragini IPS*, reuniting with producer K Manju, while Jaggesh's sons, Gururaj and Yathiraj, make their directorial debut

Ragini Dwivedi

Yathiraj, Gururaj, Ragini Dwivedi and K Manju

A SHARADHAA

MORE than a decade after *Ragini IPS* emerged as a commercial success, Ragini Dwivedi is set to return as the face of its sequel. The upcoming film aims to continue the original story while opening the door to a larger franchise. Jointly produced by K Manju and Ragini Dwivedi Ventures (RDV), the film will pick up from where the original film ended. For Ragini, the sequel is not merely about revisiting a successful film but also about collaboration and creating opportunities within the Kannada industry. "The people involved with *Ragini IPS* come from different backgrounds and understand cinema differently. I enjoy generating talent from within our industry and working with our own content," Ragini tells CE. "The intention behind this project was also to bring the industry together, especially seasonal producers," she says.

The actor shares a close association with producer K Manju, who backed her first film as a solo lead. "K Manju sir is family to me because he gave me Ragini IPS. We have had a journey together, and now that I'm stepping into production, I wanted him to be part of this venture," she says. Ragini adds that the team had hoped to involve original director Anant Raju, but his health prevented that collaboration. "We were looking for the right story and directors. Franchise filmmaking is relevant today, and *Ragini IPS 2* is a good start," says the actor.

She also has larger plans for the sequel. "Kannada will be the primary language, but we are contemplating a bilingual version in Hindi or English. Back then *Ragini IPS* was dubbed into 21 languages through YouTube before OTT became prominent. Now we want to take it internationally." Apart from *Ragini IPS 2*, Ragini also has *Sarkari Nyabele Angadi* and *Madanika* in the pipeline. She is also exploring digital content through an Amazon-backed project.

The film marks the directorial debut of brothers Gururaj Jaggesh and Yathiraj Jaggesh, sons of veteran actor Jaggesh. "It was Parimala amma who asked them to meet me," Ragini says. "When I heard the one-line pitch, I was excited. They had done their homework." Gururaj says the brothers have been preparing since 2019, including taking online filmmaking courses through New York Film University. "We got opportunities as actors because of our father, but we wanted to be serious about direction," he says, adding that the script is complete and Ragini will undergo training in Indonesia before shooting, which is expected to commence around the end of July. "*Ragini IPS 2* is a true continuation of the earlier story," Gururaj says.

On the other hand, Producer K Manju recalls his long association with Ragini. "She is a talented performer. When Gururaj and Yathiraj narrated *Ragini IPS 2*, I found the content strong and promising. With Ragini Ventures joining hands, the film will go on floors soon."

Mrityudevate's release delayed due to censor issue

CE FEATURES

A SCENE involving the killing of a chicken has contributed to the delay in the release of Mrityudevate, even as the makers continue promotions, with the launch of the film's new song, 'Nammava Madeva'.

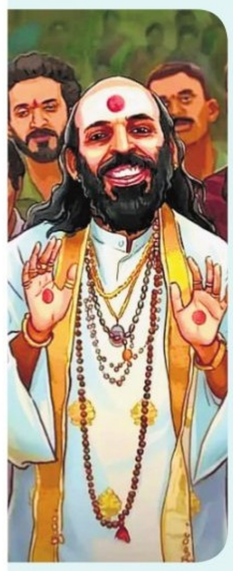
Speaking at the song release event, co-director Devu reveals that the censor board had asked the team to obtain mandatory clearance from the animal welfare board before certification could move ahead. "Because of this technical issue, the film's release has been delayed," says the director, before adding that Munindra of MP Films will distribute the movie across Karnataka.

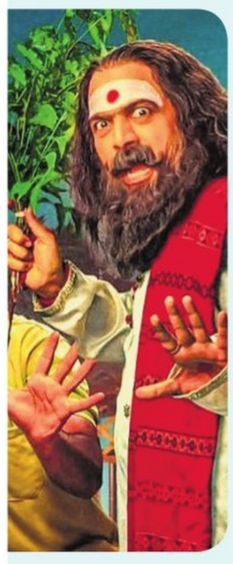
Directed and headlined by Naveen Mahadev, *Mrityudevate* is a women-centric film that looks at how women fall into the traps laid by fraudsters, the struggle to escape such situations, and the fight against those who exploit them. The story revolves around three women whose lives are shaken by deception and betrayal.

Produced by Saraswati Naveen Mahadev under the Varshitha Productions banner, the film has Naveen taking charge of the story, screenplay, dialogues, lyrics, and direction, besides acting in a major role. As part of promotions, the team released 'Nammava Madeva', starring Himashree and Naveen Mahadev, with lyrics written by the director.

Naveen explains that despite the censor issue and subsequent release days, the first song had received appreciation and has immensely helped the films promotions. "We had not planned to use this song initially, but Himashree insisted. I spent nearly 30 days working on the trailer because presentation is important," he says.

Raj B Shetty's *Su From So* to be remade in Marathi as *Tumbadchi Manjula*





CE FEATURES

WHAT began as a quirky Kannada village tale has now crossed borders. Su From So, directed by JP Thuminad, starring Shaneel Gautham and Raj B Shetty in a key role, which became one of Kannada cinema's surprise success stories of 2025, is now being remade into Marathi as *Tumbadchi Manjula*. The trailer of the film now out.

Released in Kannada as Sulochana From Someshwara, the film eventually shortened its title to Su From So, the film connected with audiences through its mix of mystery, humour and rooted village storytelling, performing strongly not only in Karnataka but also finding appreciation in outside the state, particularly among younger audiences drawn to its offbeat flavour and word-of-mouth appeal. Now, that success is being reimagined for Marathi audiences.

The trailer of *Tumbadchi Manjula* was recently unveiled at a grand launch event in Mumbai attended by film personalities and industry guests. While staying largely faithful to the Kannada original, the Marathi version appears to add its own flavour and scale, including a stronger visual connection to the world of folk mystery and supernatural drama.

The trailer offers glimpses of fear, comedy and village eccentricity, ingredients that helped *Su From So* stand apart. One noticeable change is the reveal of the guru figure. While the Kannada trailer kept that element under wraps, the Marathi version chooses to showcase it upfront. Directed by Vidhav Koregaonkar and written by Rishikesh Turai, *Tumbadchi Manjula* is presented by Zee Studios and produced by Umesh Kumar Bansal and Bhavesh Janvalekar.

Umesh K Krupa's next to star Dhanush NS and Manasvi

Dhanush NS and Manasvi

Umesh K

A SHARADHAA

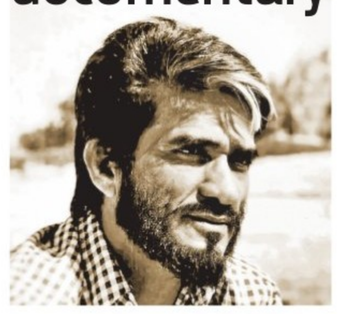
AFTER the success of *Tagaru Palya*, director Umesh K Krupa is gearing up for his second feature. Produced by Nagesh Vastar under the Akanksha Productions banner, the yet-to-be-titled film stars Dhanush NS, known for his role as Kanti in the television serial *Puttakkana Makkalu*, alongside Manasvi, who is stepping into cinema from a serial background. In an exclusive conversation with CE, Umesh says, "*Tagaru Palya* received immense encouragement and appreciation from both audiences and critics, and I remain grateful for that support. This is my second directorial venture, and I have written the story, screenplay and dialogues myself." A firm believer that content is king, the director adds, "For me, the story is the true hero of this film."

Like *Tagaru Palya*, the new film, along with Dhanush and Manasvi, will also feature experienced actors alongside the lead pair. Umesh revealed that Rangayana Raghu has been approached for a pivotal role, while Sithara, last seen in Theertharoopa Thandeyavarige, and Gopal Krishna Deshpande are also being brought on board, with casting for other key roles still underway. Explaining the shift from his debut, Umesh says while *Tagaru Palya* was set against a village backdrop and centred on customs and rituals, the new film is entirely rooted in village life. "This is a story from our land, filled with love, humour and sentiment. It is designed as a wholesome family entertainer with all the ingredients audiences enjoy."

Nature itself plays a distinctive role in the film. "Rain is an important character in this story. We were waiting for the monsoon to begin before starting production," Umesh reveals. With the filming is set to begin in June, the first phase of the shoot will be shot across locations like Thirthahalli, Agumbe, Karkala and Chikkamagaluru. The technical team includes SK Rao as cinematographer, Palani D Senapathi as music director, Madhu Thumbakere as editor, Arjun Raj as action choreographer, A Satish as art director, and H Jagadish Rao as executive producer.

For Dhanush, the film marks an important transition from serials and reality shows to cinema. Having completed his first film, Jagate Gensets, a romcom directed by Anup with a largely fresh team, the actor says he is now ready to begin work on Umesh's film. "Cinema was always on my mind since childhood. I did not come from a film family, so I took the opportunities I got through serials. I'm thankful that people noticed me as Kanti in *Puttakkana Makkalu*, and now is where my cinema journey truly begins," says Dhanush.

Sholay actor gets a documentary



CE FEATURES

LATE actor Mohan Makijany, popularly known by his stage name Mac Mohan, will get a documentary soon titled 'Discovering Sambha'. Titled after an iconic role in the classic *Sholay*, the documentary is directed by the actor's daughter Manjari Makijany. Made as an India-Australia co-production, the film was officially unveiled at the Cannes Film Festival 2026.

Reports state that Discovering Sambha's production would begin later this year with a release targeted for 2027. The film, according to the makers, would draw on archival materials, recollections from family, and reflections from collections. The documentary is also expected to explore themes such as legacy and identity.

Speaking about the documentary, Manjari described its making as a "cathartic process of filmmaking". Calling her father someone more than Sambha, she says she is still making a discovery of her father through people who knew him before her.

Mac Mohan, in an illustrious career spanning over five decades, has worked on over 280 films. His notable projects are Don, Karz, Zanjeer, Shaan, Khoon Pasina, Khuddar, and Satte Pe Satta.

Ben Stiller teams up with Mike Judge on *Protective Custody*

CE FEATURES

BEN Stiller will star in a new comedy series, *Protective Custody*, from Mike Judge (*Silicon Valley*), Dave King (*Parks and Recreation*), and Steve Hely (*Common Side Effects*), which is currently being developed at Apple TV+. While Judge, King, and Hely will be co-writing, co-showrunning, Judge will be directing the series.

Protective Custody marks Stiller's first lead role in a scripted and non-sketch comedy series. This project is also a highly anticipated collaboration between Apple and Stiller, following Stiller's behind-the-scenes success as an executive producer and director on the Emmy-winning drama Severance. Stiller was last seen in Happy Gilmore 2 (2025), alongside Adam Sandler, Julie Bowen, Christopher McDonald, and Benny Safdie. Popular for his roles in Night at the Museum, Zoolander, and There's Something about Mary, Stiller's upcoming films include *The Dink and Focker-in-Law*.

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Julia Roberts is set to feature and produce the film adaptation of *Home Economics*, the forthcoming novel by Katy Hays. Producing alongside Roberts are Elizabeth Gabler and Aislinn Dunster of Sony's 3000 Pictures, Lisa Roberts Gillan and Marisa Yeres Gills through their Red Om Films, and Marc Platt of Marc Platt Productions. While the film's plotline and the book's synopsis are under wraps, author Hays will both direct the film and serve as an executive producer.

Julia Roberts to star in *Home Economics* adaptation

Home Economics, which is currently scheduled to be published in 2027, landed at Pamela Dorman Books publication after being sold at a public auction. It has been sold in 11 international territories. Julia Roberts, who was last seen in Luca Guadagnino's *After the Hunt* (2025), also has Panic Carefully in the pipeline. The new film, directed by Sam Esmail, which also stars Elizabeth